

# Simple Linear Regression

## Fundamentals

Rahul Singh  
rsingh@arrsingh.com

# What is Simple Linear Regression

**re·gres·sion**

*noun*

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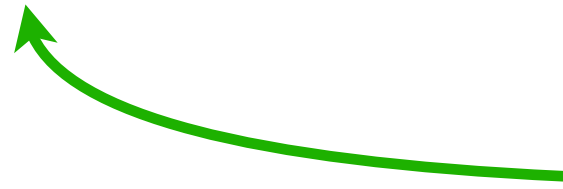
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$$y = f(x)$$

**x** is the independent variable

**y** is the dependent variable

# Simple Linear Regression

**Lets take a simple example...**

# Simple Linear Regression

## A simple example...

A car is traveling at a constant speed. We observe the distance travelled by the car at various times during its journey.

| Time (Hours) | Distance Traveled (Miles) |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 0.3          | 18                        |
| 0.7          | 42                        |
| 1.3          | 78                        |
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Distance Traveled (Miles)

Lets begin by plotting the data

**Y** Axis = Distance Travelled (Miles)

**X** Axis = Time (Hours)

**Question:** Can we **predict** how far the car will have traveled in 4.7 hours?

Time (Hours)

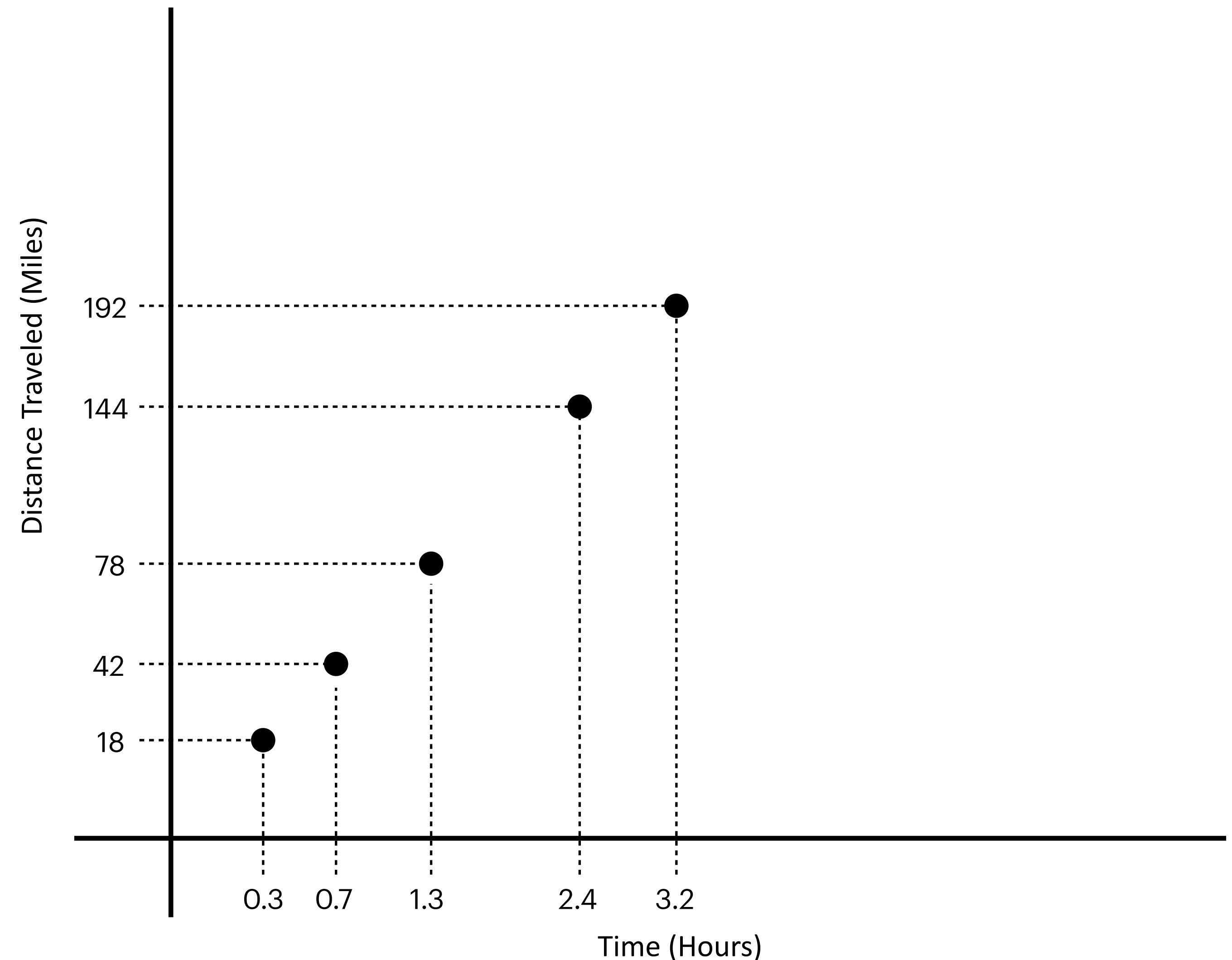
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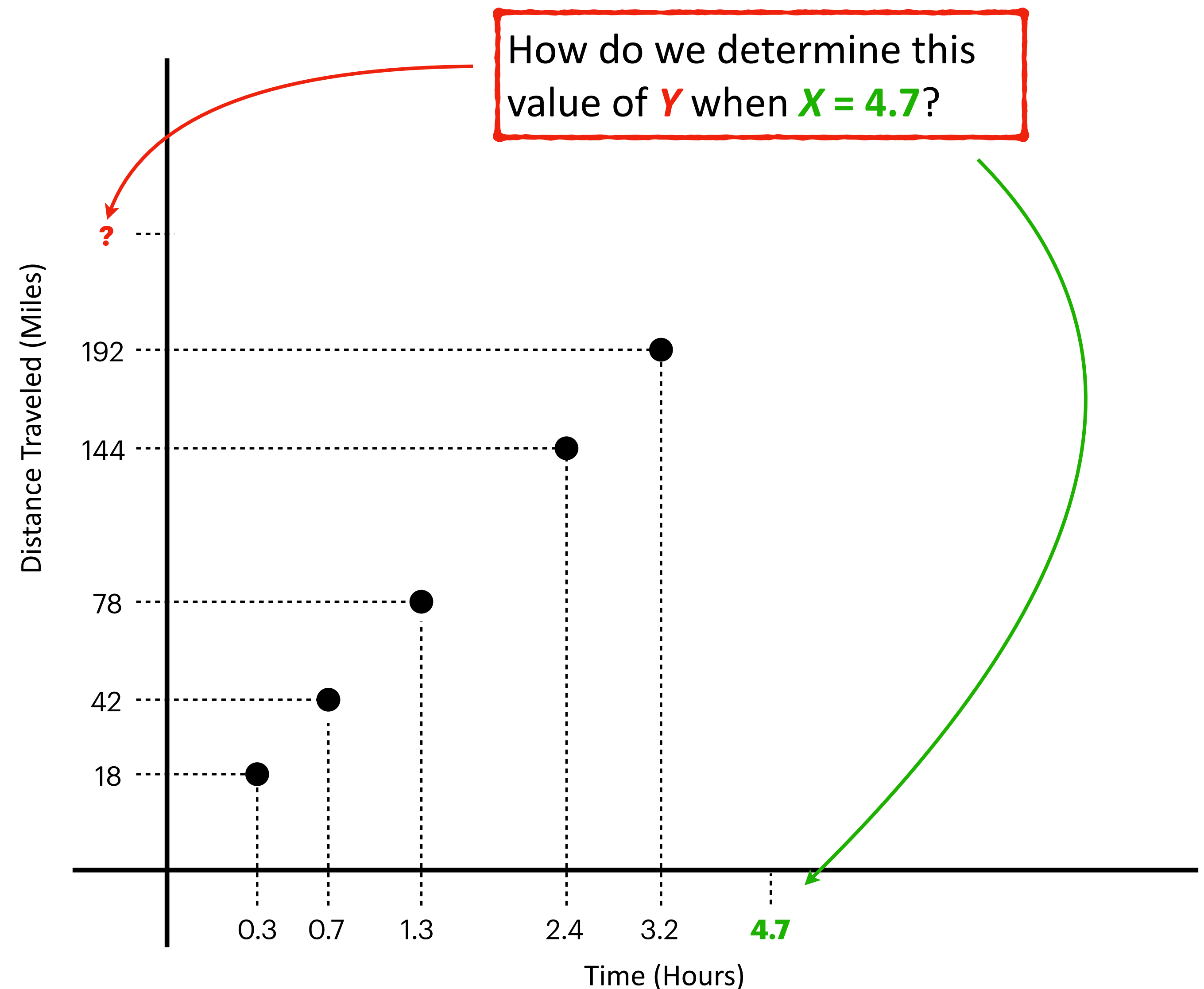
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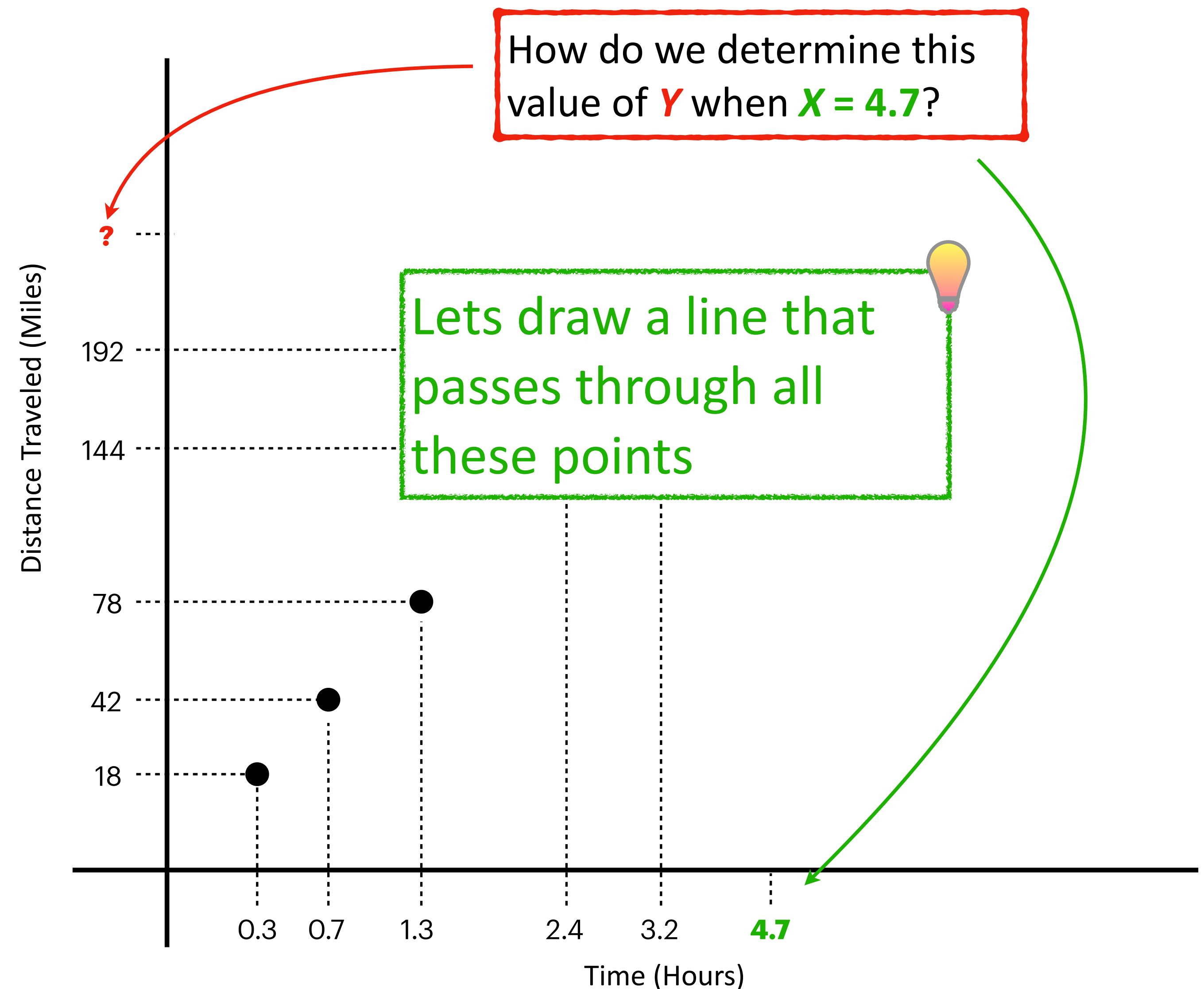
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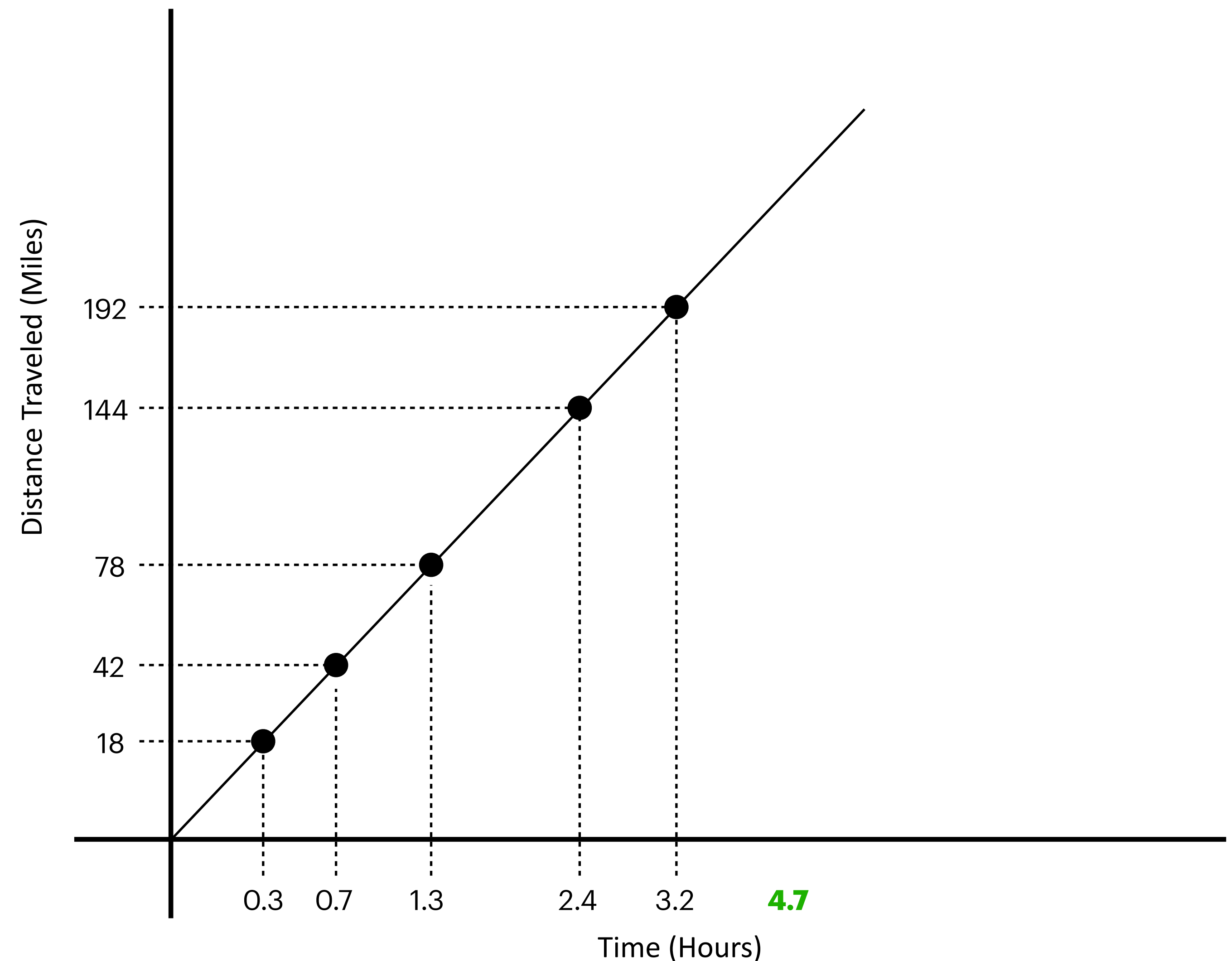
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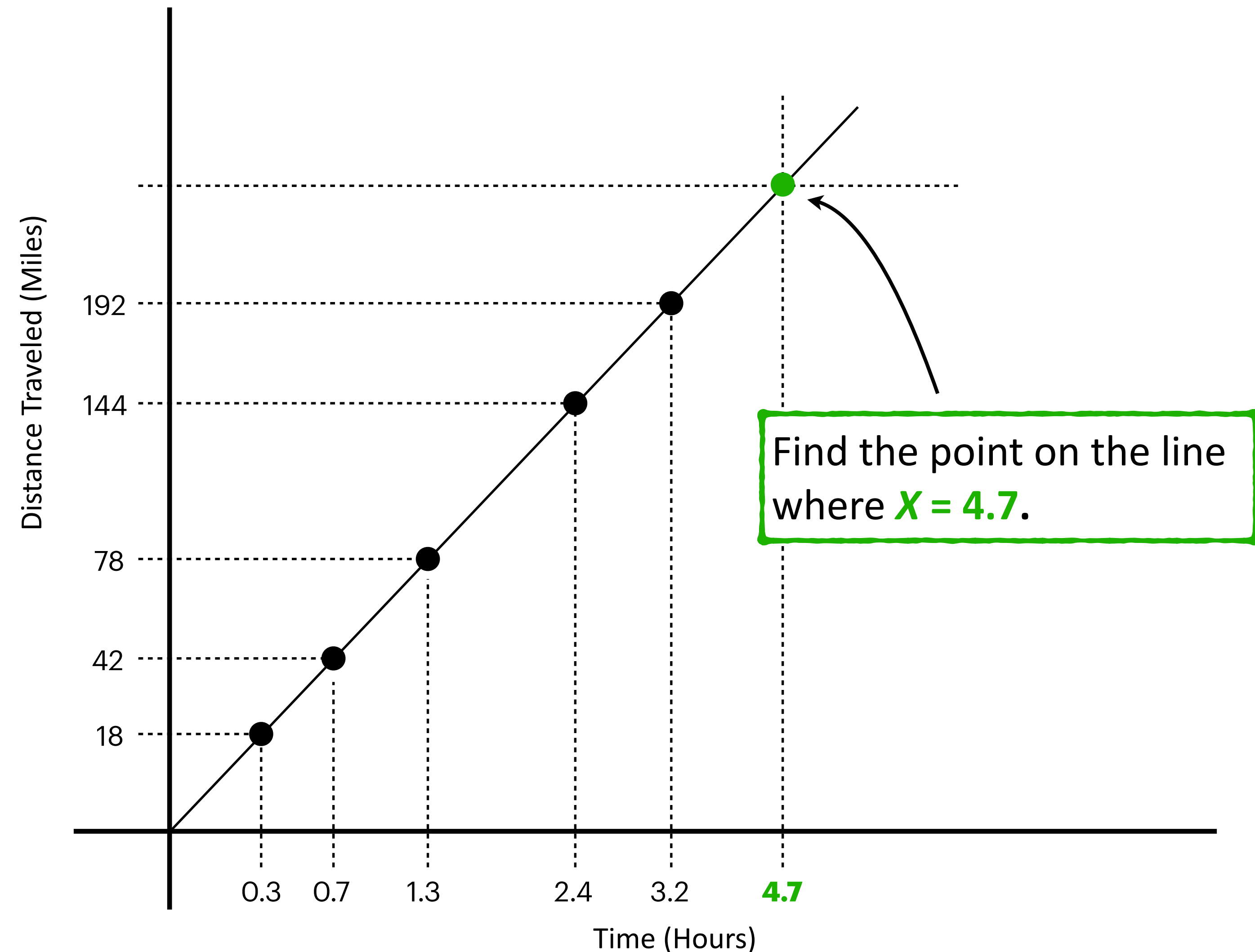
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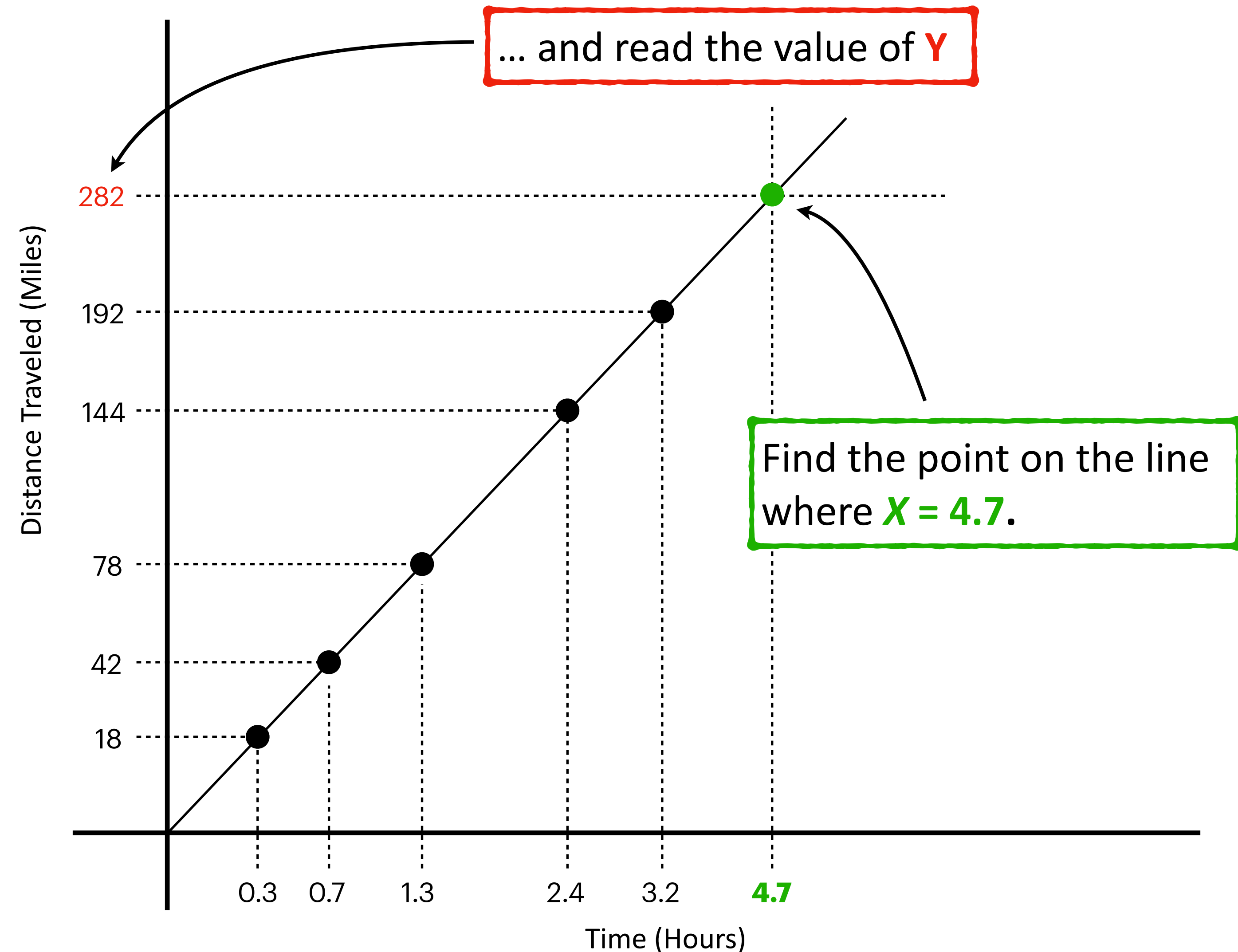
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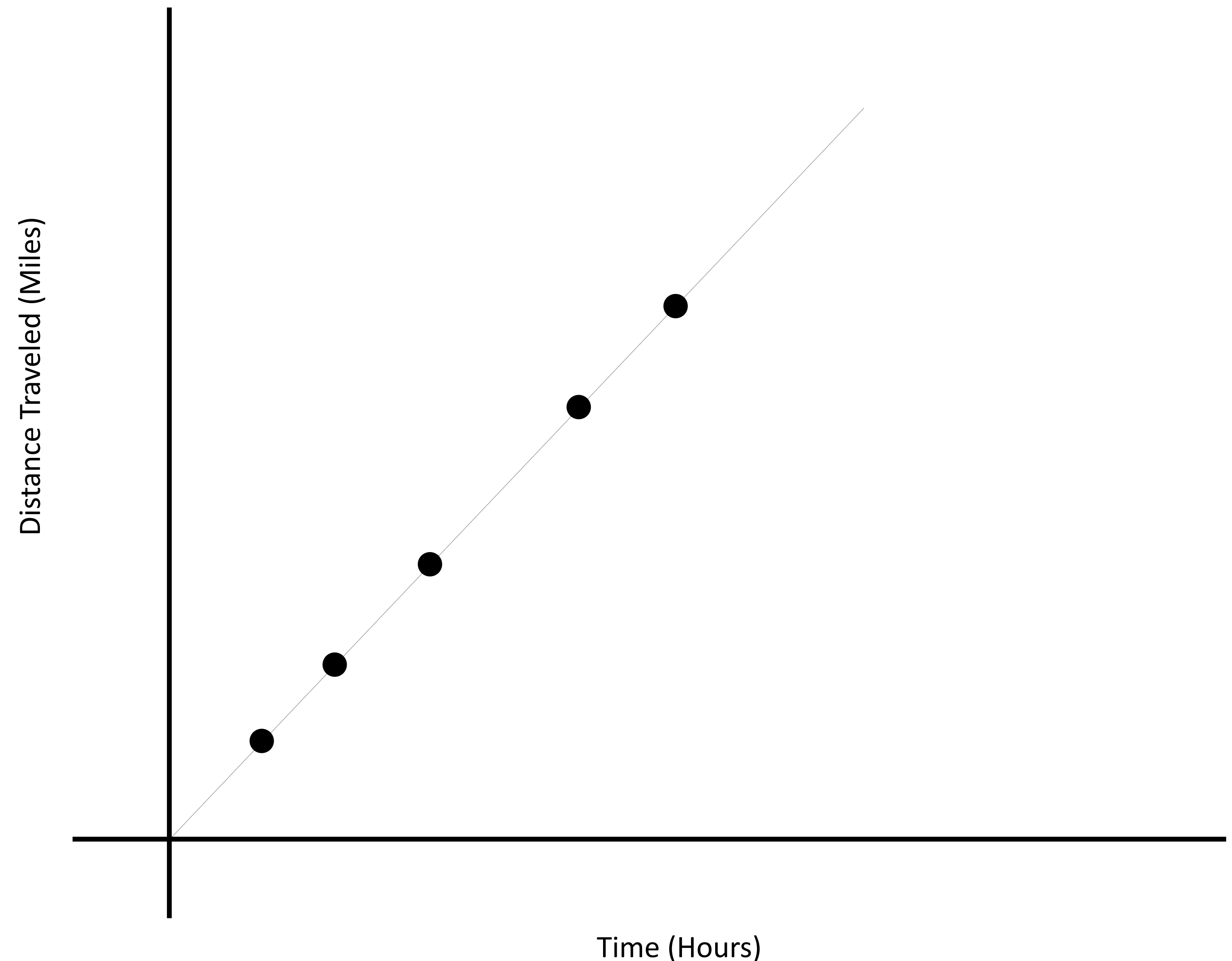
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# Simple Linear Regression

## A few things to note...

- All the data points line up perfectly
- The slope of the line (i.e. speed of the car) is easy to determine:

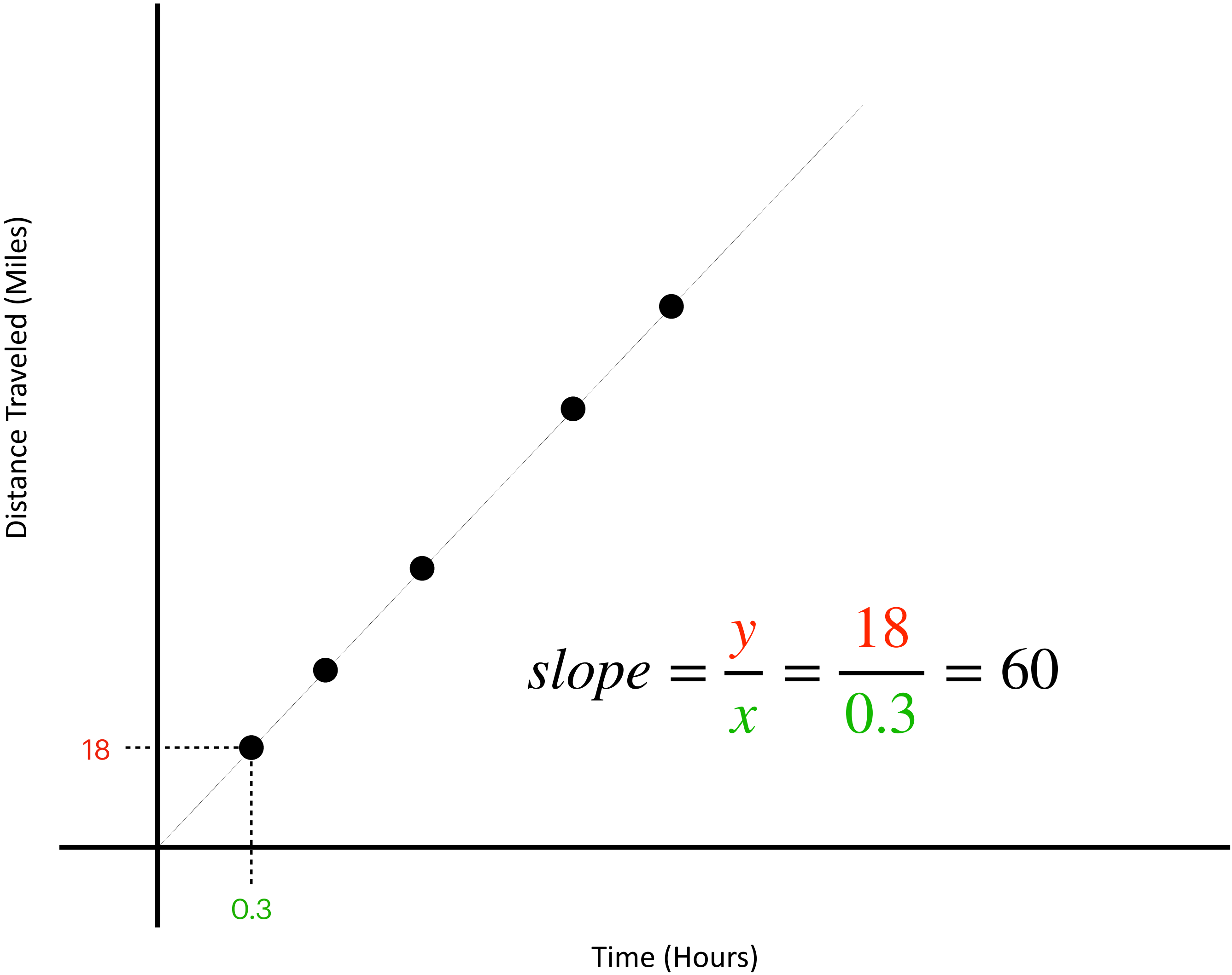


# Simple Linear Regression

The slope of the line (i.e. speed of the car) is easy to determine:

Slope at  $x = 0.3$ ,  $y = 18$

| Time (Hours) | Distance Traveled (Miles) | Speed (mph)     |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 0.3          | 18                        | $18 / 0.3 = 60$ |
|              |                           |                 |
|              |                           |                 |
|              |                           |                 |
|              |                           |                 |

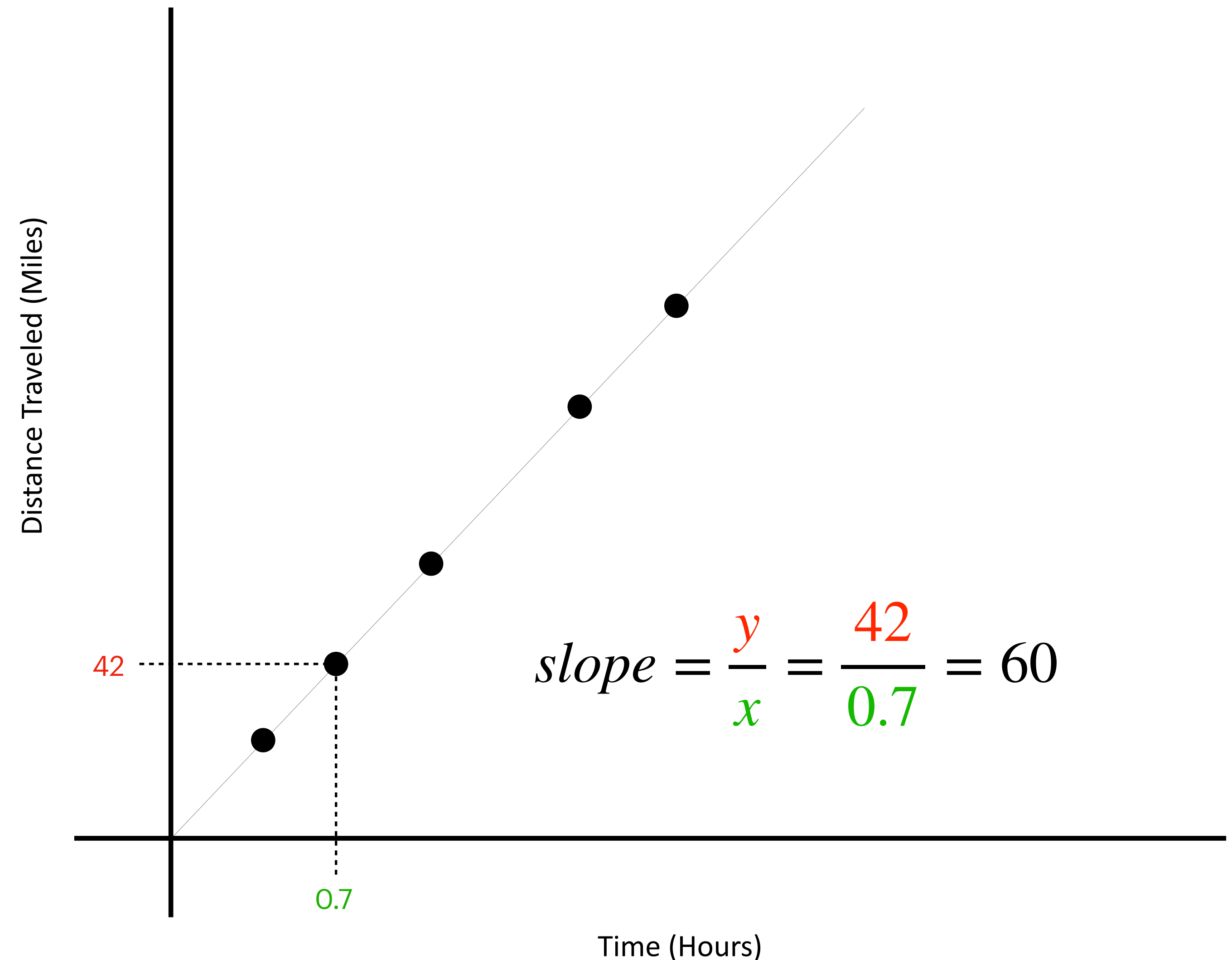


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Slope at  $x = 0.7$ ,  $y = 42$

| Time (Hours) | Distance Traveled (Miles) | Speed (mph)     |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 0.3          | 18                        | $18 / 0.3 = 60$ |
| 0.7          | 42                        | $42 / 0.7 = 60$ |
|              |                           |                 |
|              |                           |                 |
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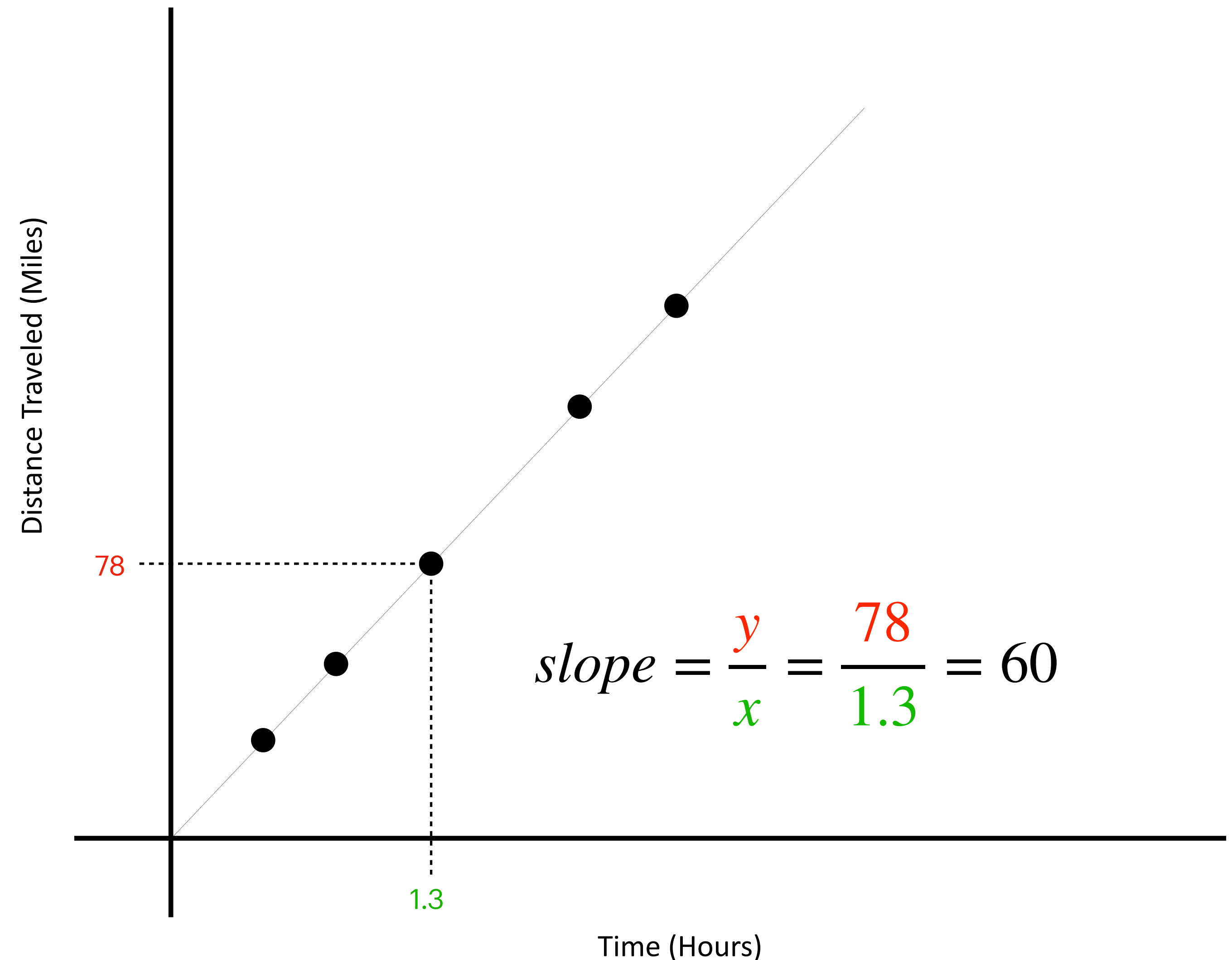


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The slope of the line (i.e. speed of the car) is easy to determine:

Slope at  $x = 1.3$ ,  $y = 78$

| Time (Hours) | Distance Traveled (Miles) | Speed (mph)     |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 0.3          | 18                        | $18 / 0.3 = 60$ |
| 0.7          | 42                        | $42 / 0.7 = 60$ |
| 1.3          | 78                        | $78 / 1.3 = 60$ |
|              |                           |                 |
|              |                           |                 |

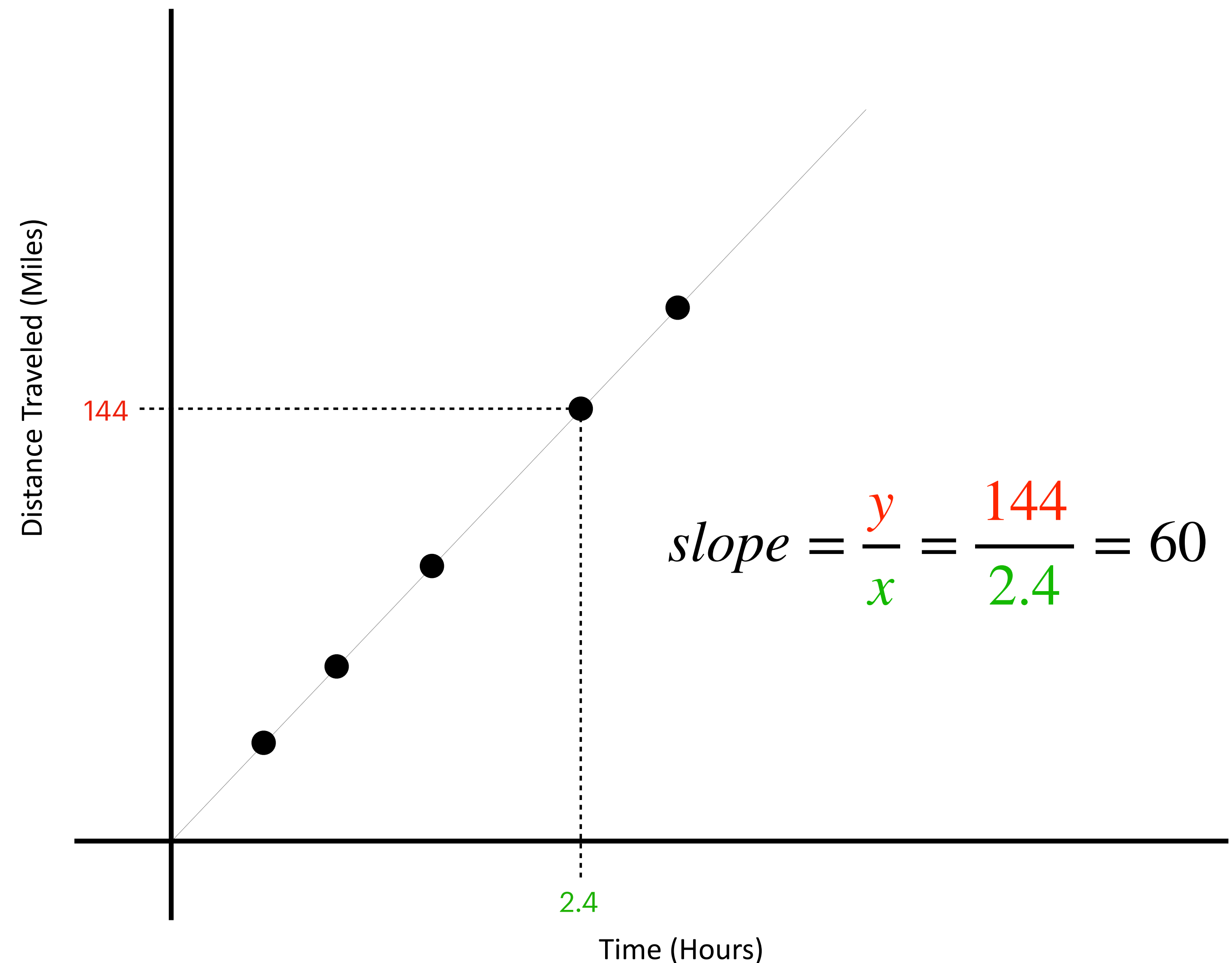


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The slope of the line (i.e. speed of the car) is easy to determine:

Slope at  $x = 2.4$ ,  $y = 144$

| Time (Hours) | Distance Traveled (Miles) | Speed (mph)      |
|--------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 0.3          | 18                        | $18 / 0.3 = 60$  |
| 0.7          | 42                        | $42 / 0.7 = 60$  |
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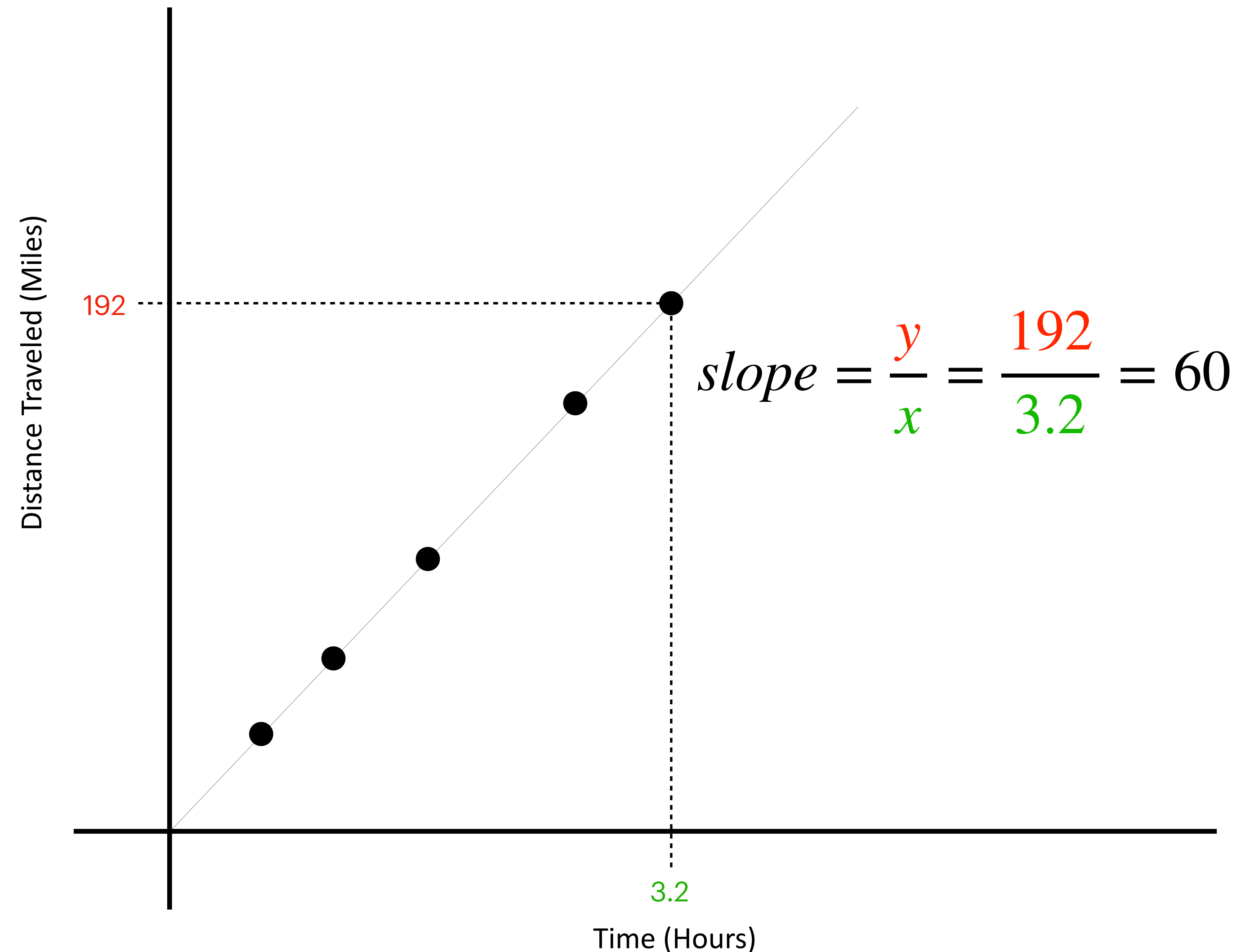


# Simple Linear Regression

The slope of the line (i.e. speed of the car) is easy to determine:

Slope at  $x = 3.2$ ,  $y = 192$

| Time (Hours) | Distance Traveled (Miles) | Speed (mph)      |
|--------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 0.3          | 18                        | $18 / 0.3 = 60$  |
| 0.7          | 42                        | $42 / 0.7 = 60$  |
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| 2.4          | 144                       | $144 / 2.4 = 60$ |
| 3.2          | 192                       | $192 / 3.2 = 60$ |



# Simple Linear Regression

Once we know the slope of the line...

$$\text{slope} = 60$$

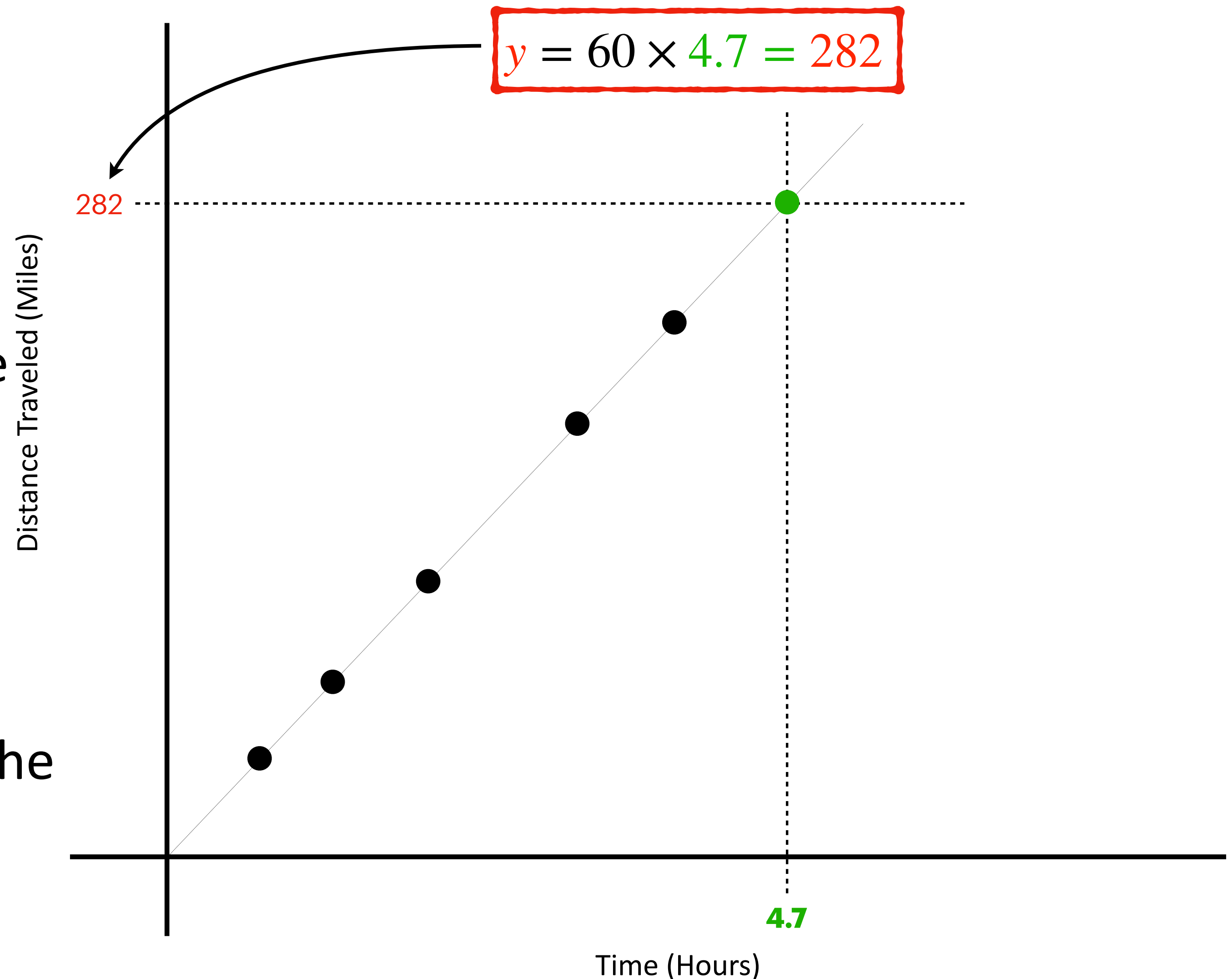
- Once we know the slope of the line, we can plot it using the formula for a line

$$y = \beta x$$

$$\text{distance} = \text{speed} \times \text{time}$$

- Once we have a line then we can find the distance traveled at any point in time

$$y = 60 \times 4.7 = 282$$



# Simple Linear Regression

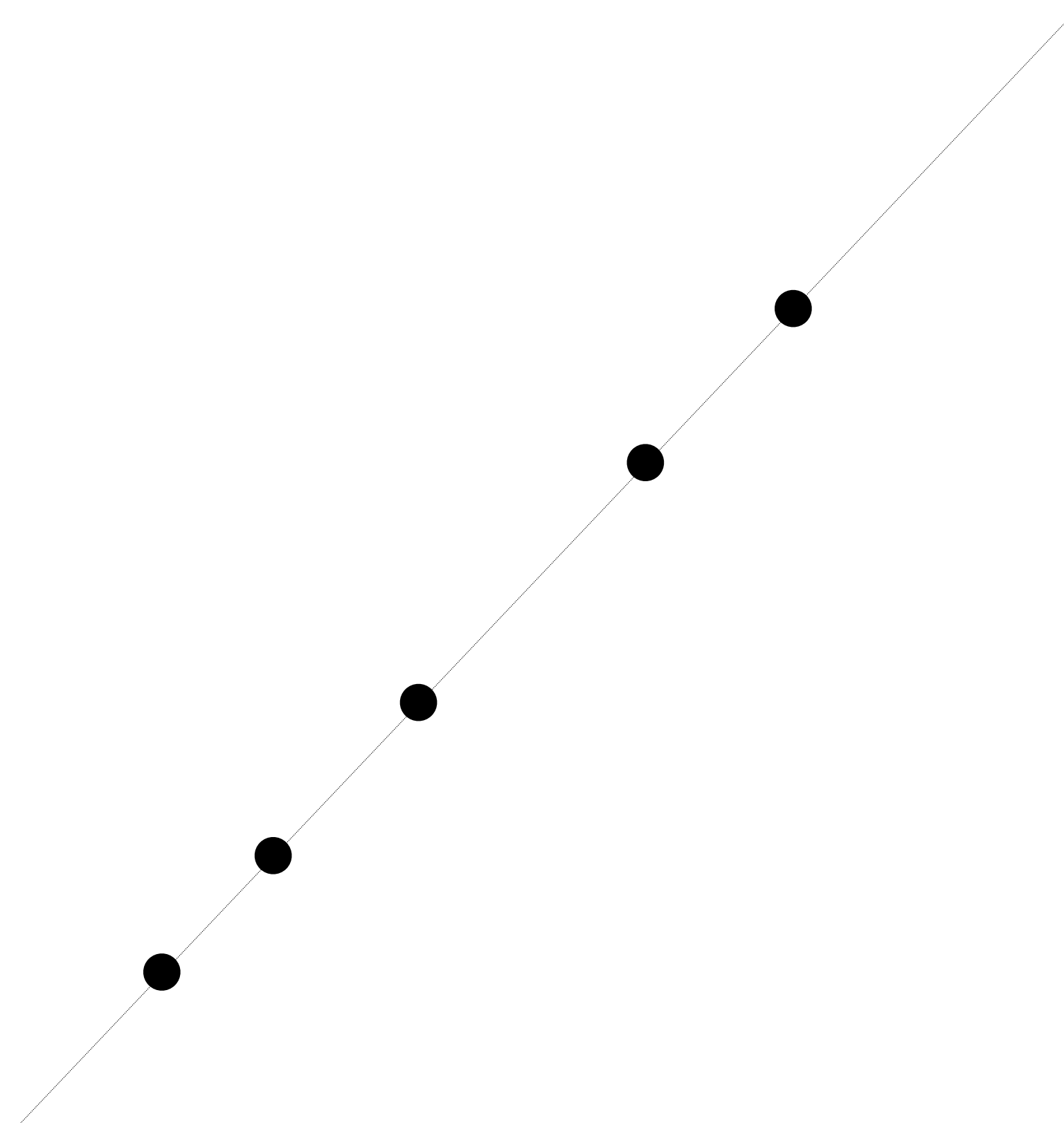
## In General...

- Given a set of data points  $(x, y)$  ...
- We plot a line that fits that data...
- Then we use the line to calculate the  $y$  values for any value of  $x$

## This was a simple (contrived?) example...

- All the data points lined up perfectly
- The line fit the data perfectly
- We could have simply used the formula for the distance

$$\text{distance} = \text{speed} \times \text{time}$$



# Simple Linear Regression

**Lets take a more realistic example...**

# Simple Linear Regression

## A realistic example...

We observe the heights and weights of 6 people

| Height (inches) | Weight (lbs) |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 62              | 138          |
| 55              | 178          |
| 44              | 123          |
| 75              | 200          |
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Weight (lbs)

Lets begin by plotting the data

**Y** Axis = Weight (lbs)

**X** Axis = Height (inches)

Height (inches)

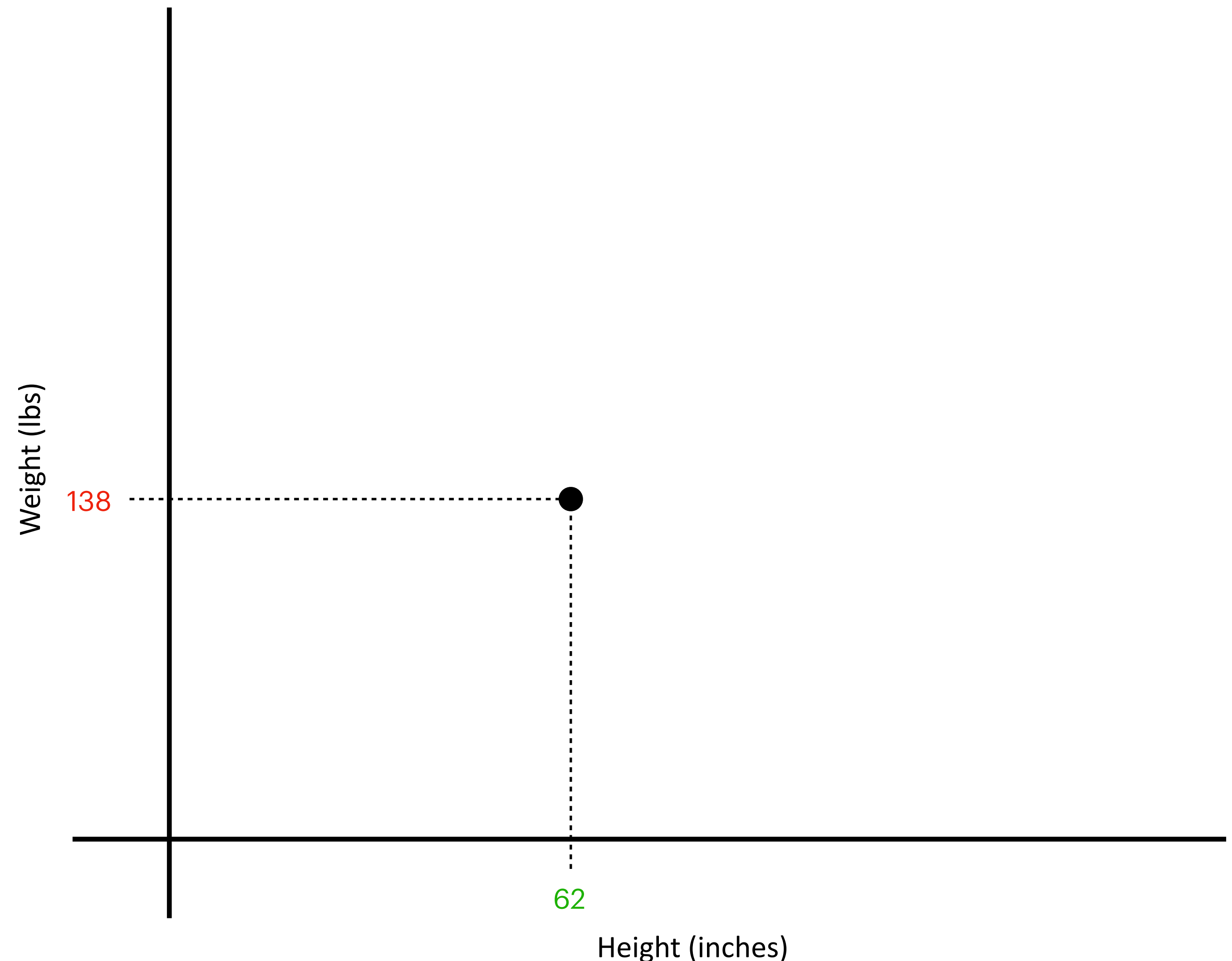
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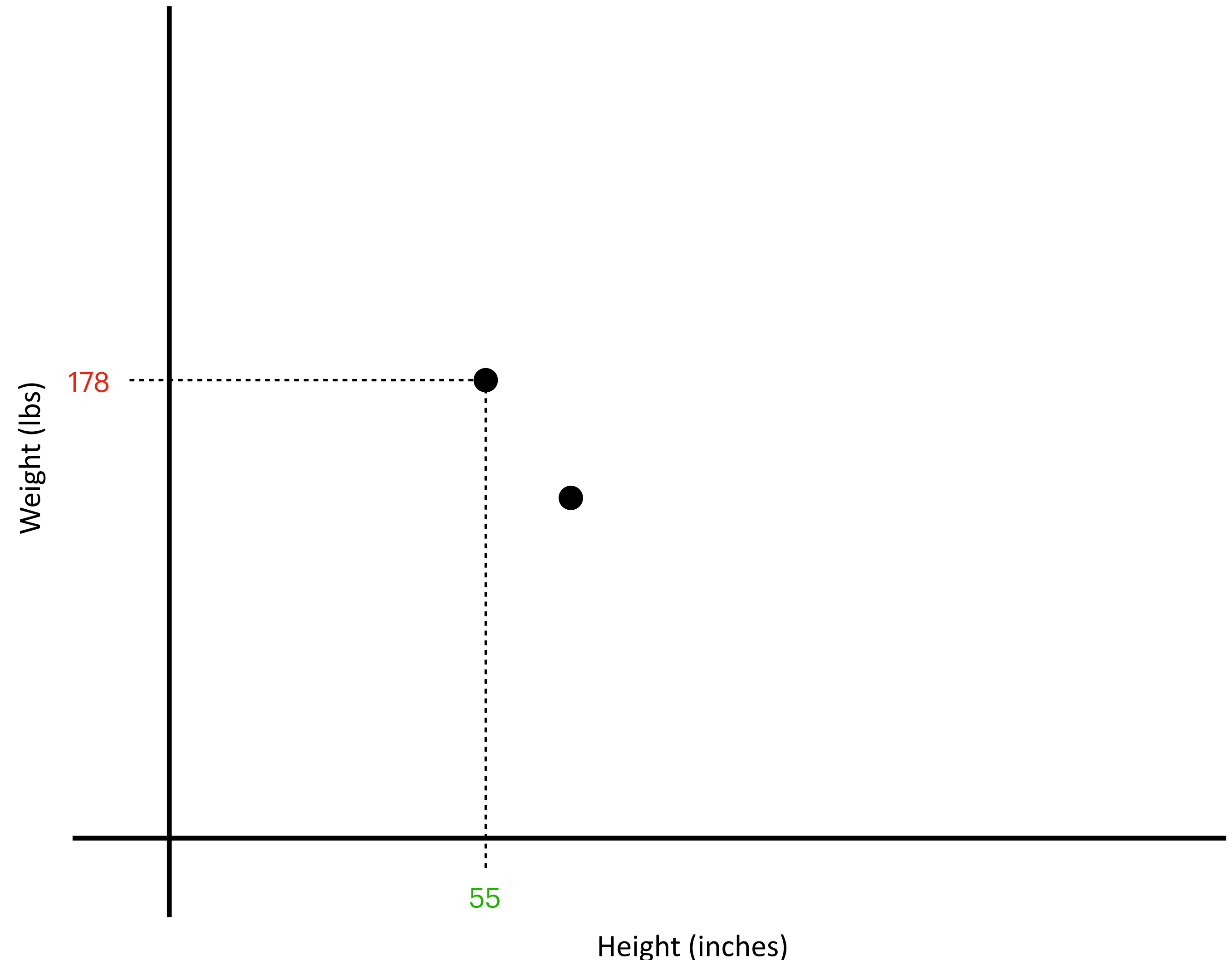
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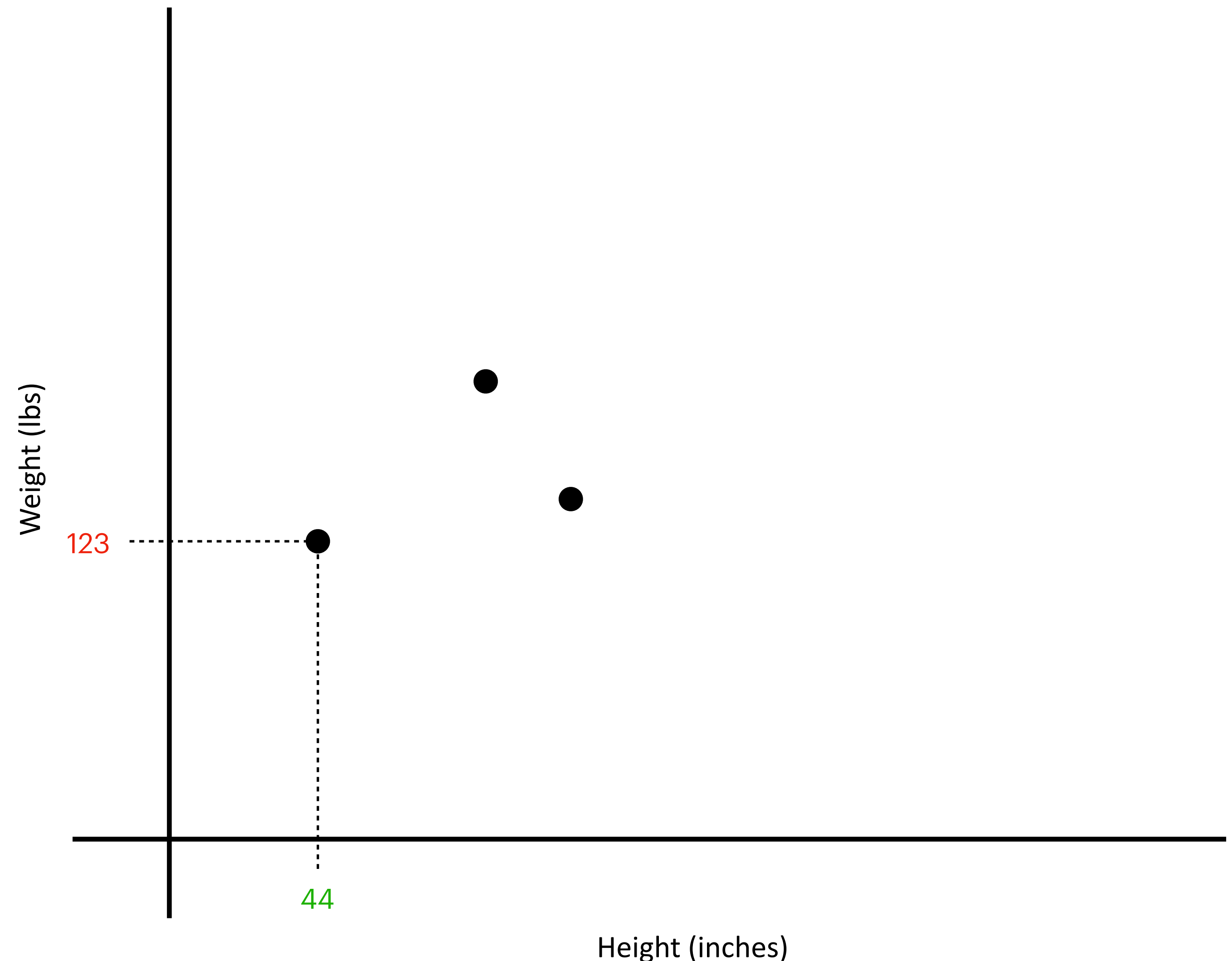
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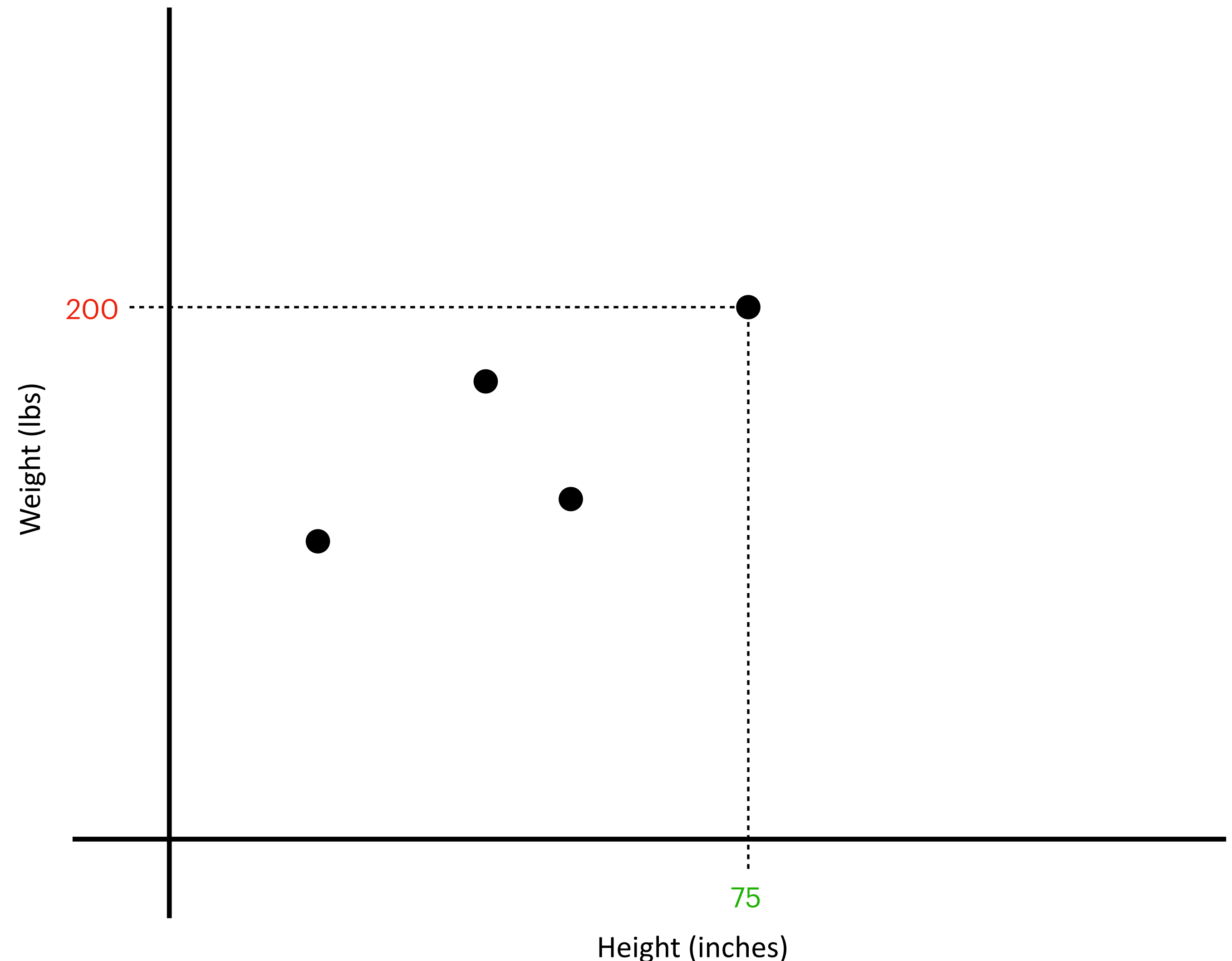
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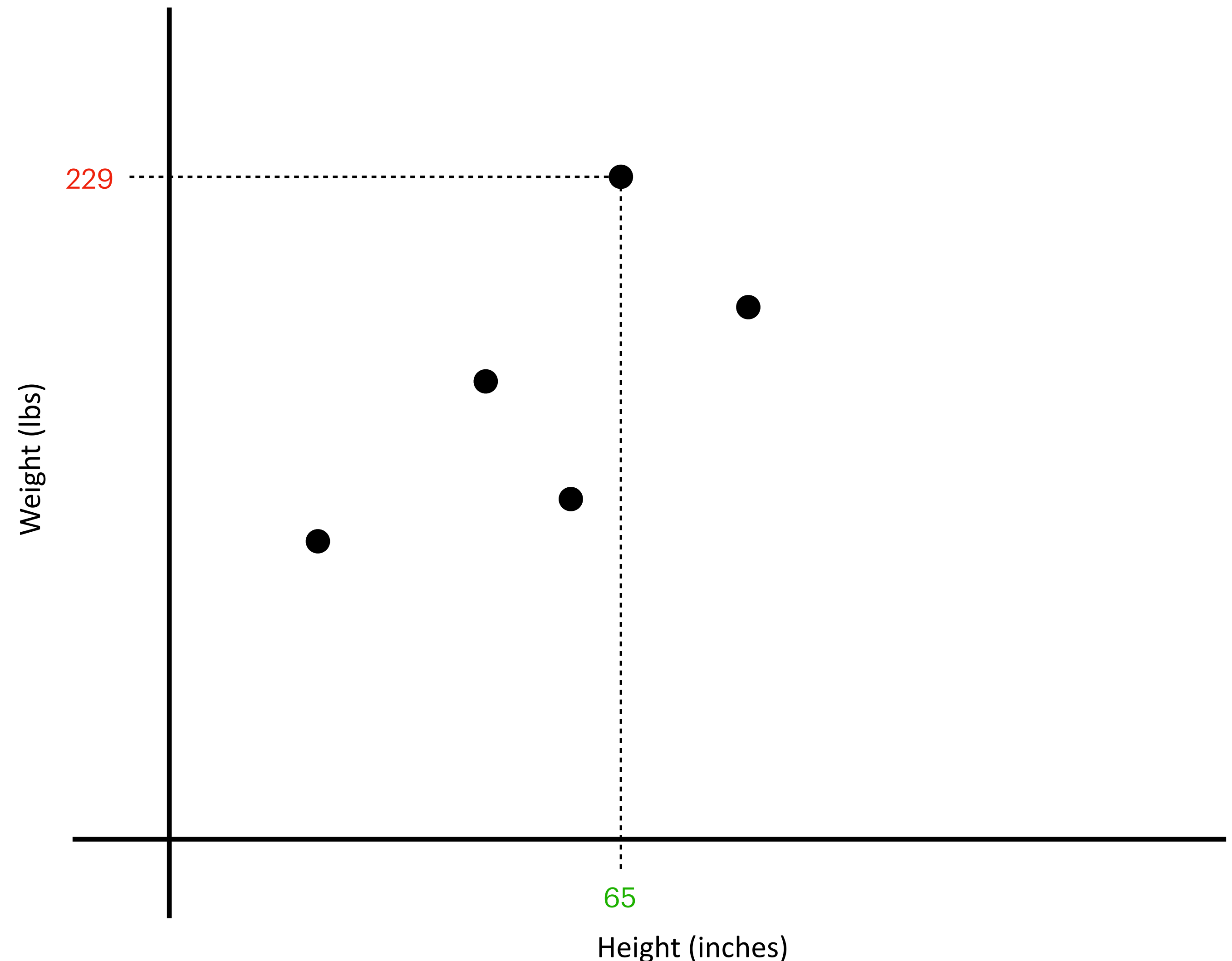
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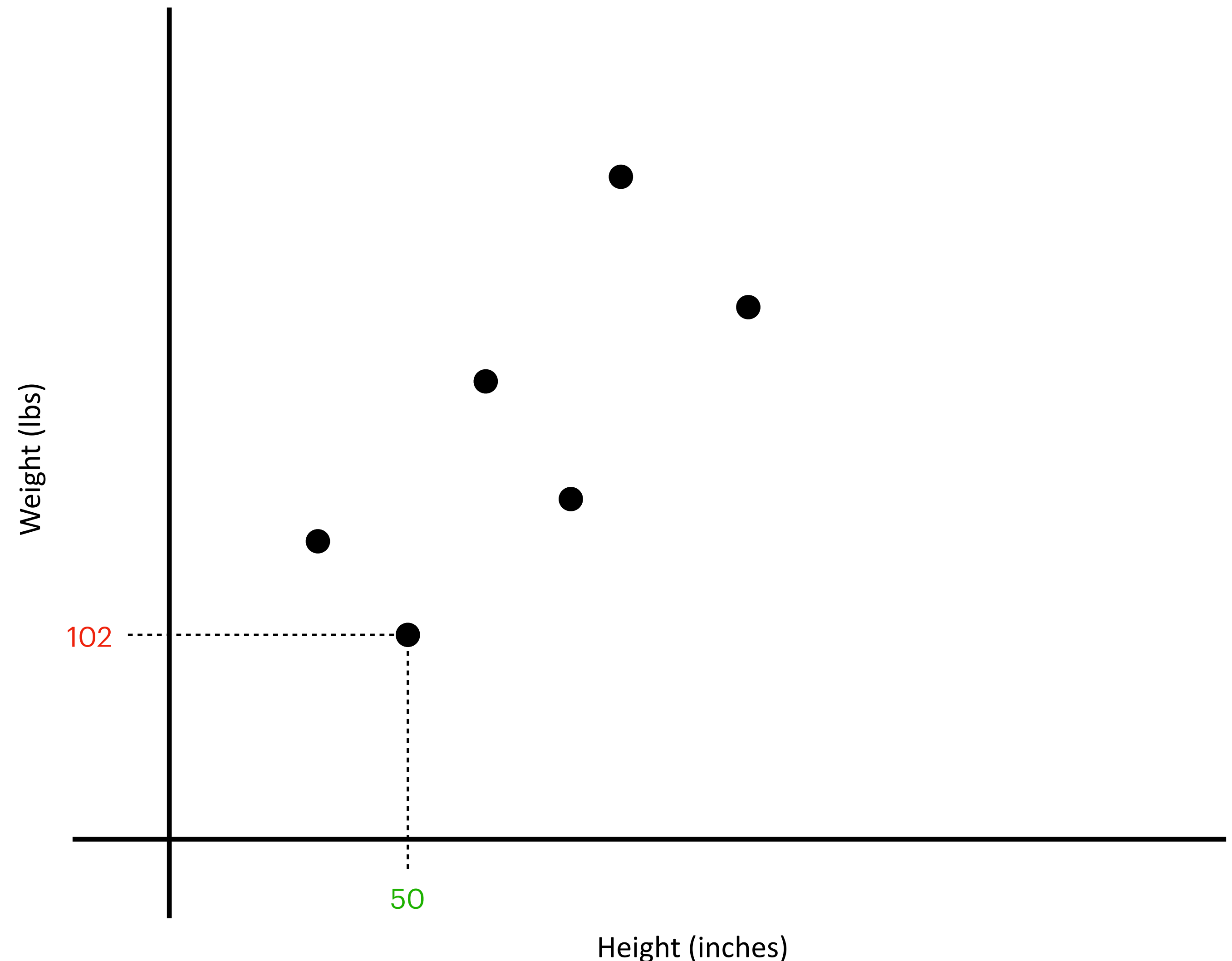
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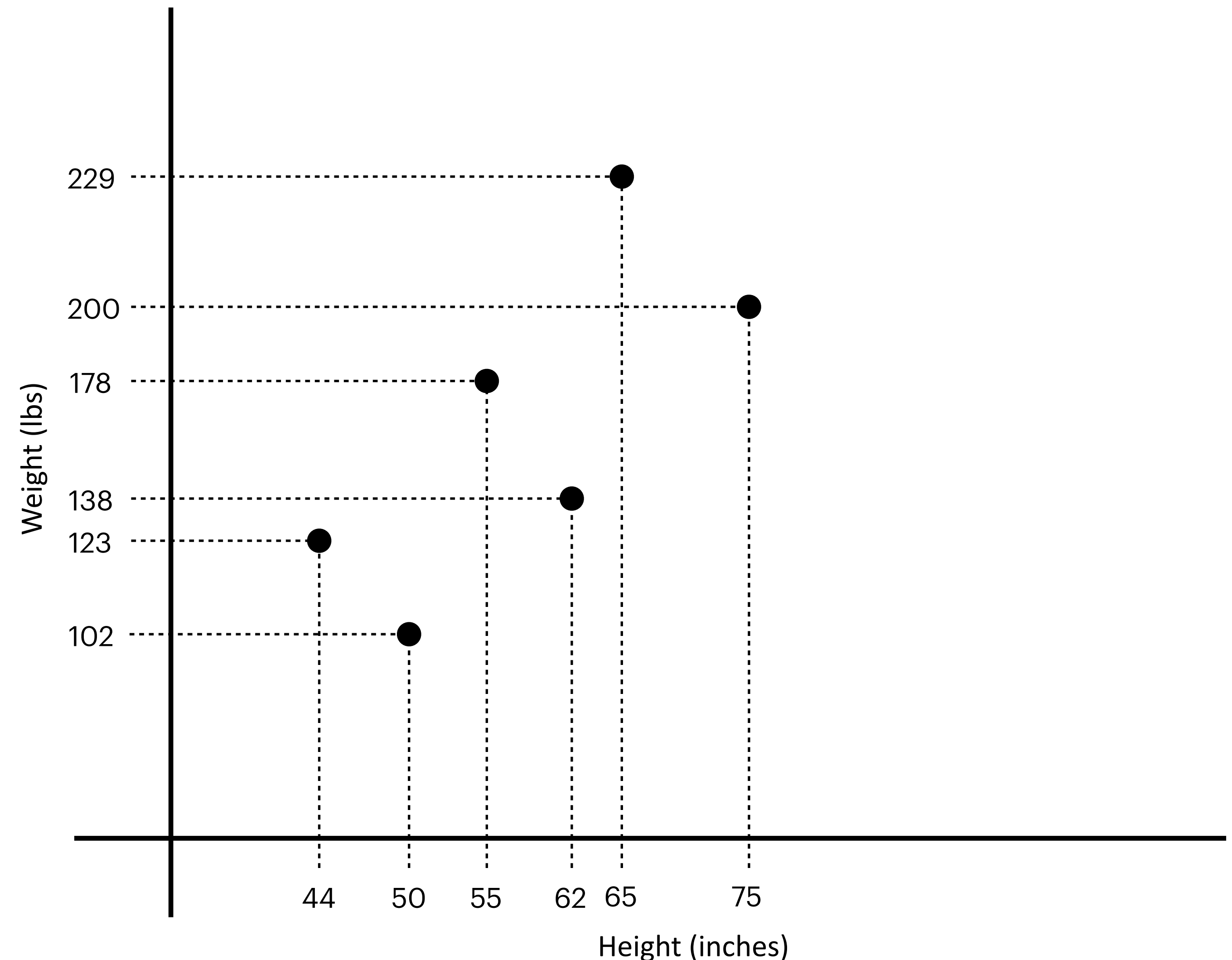
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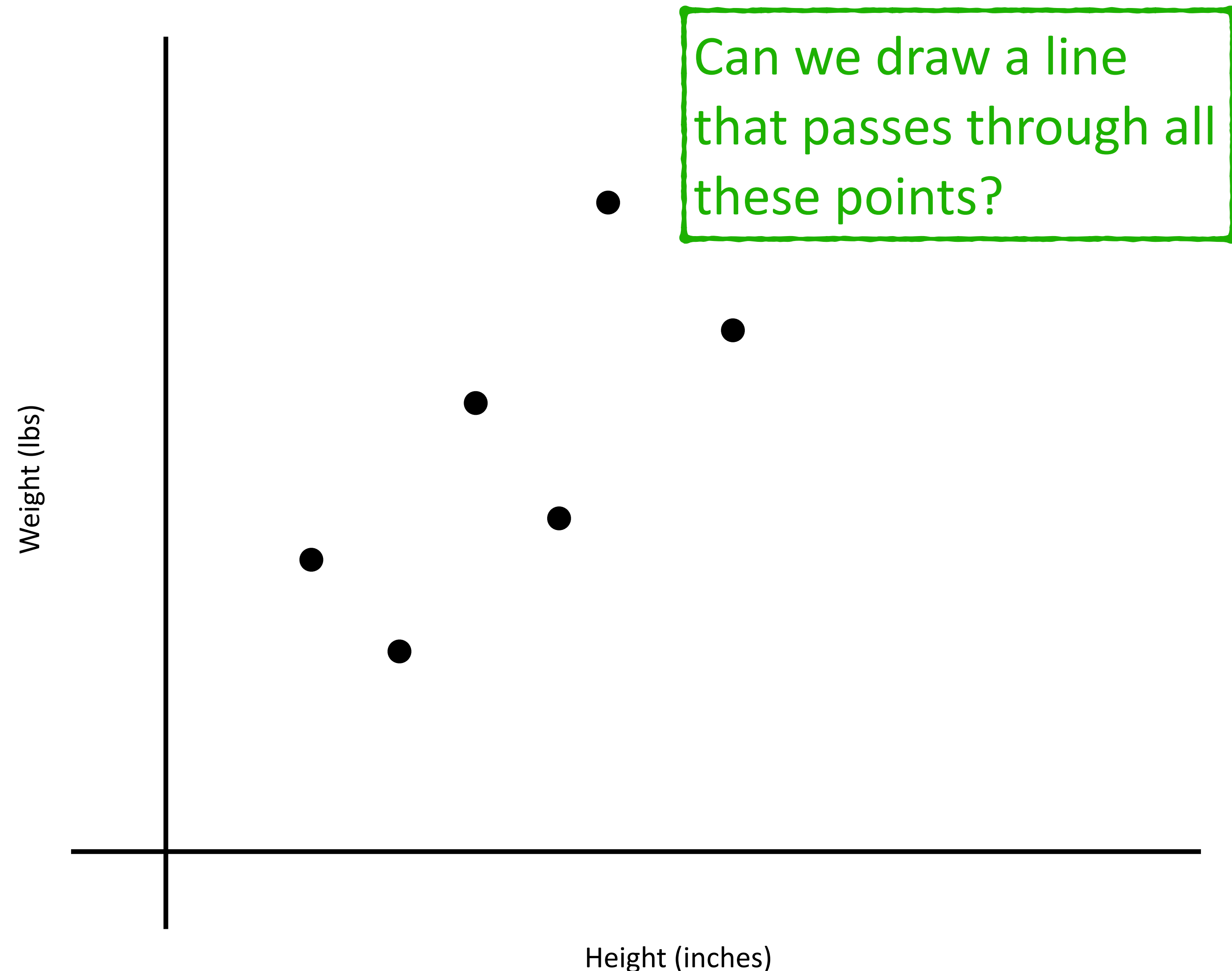
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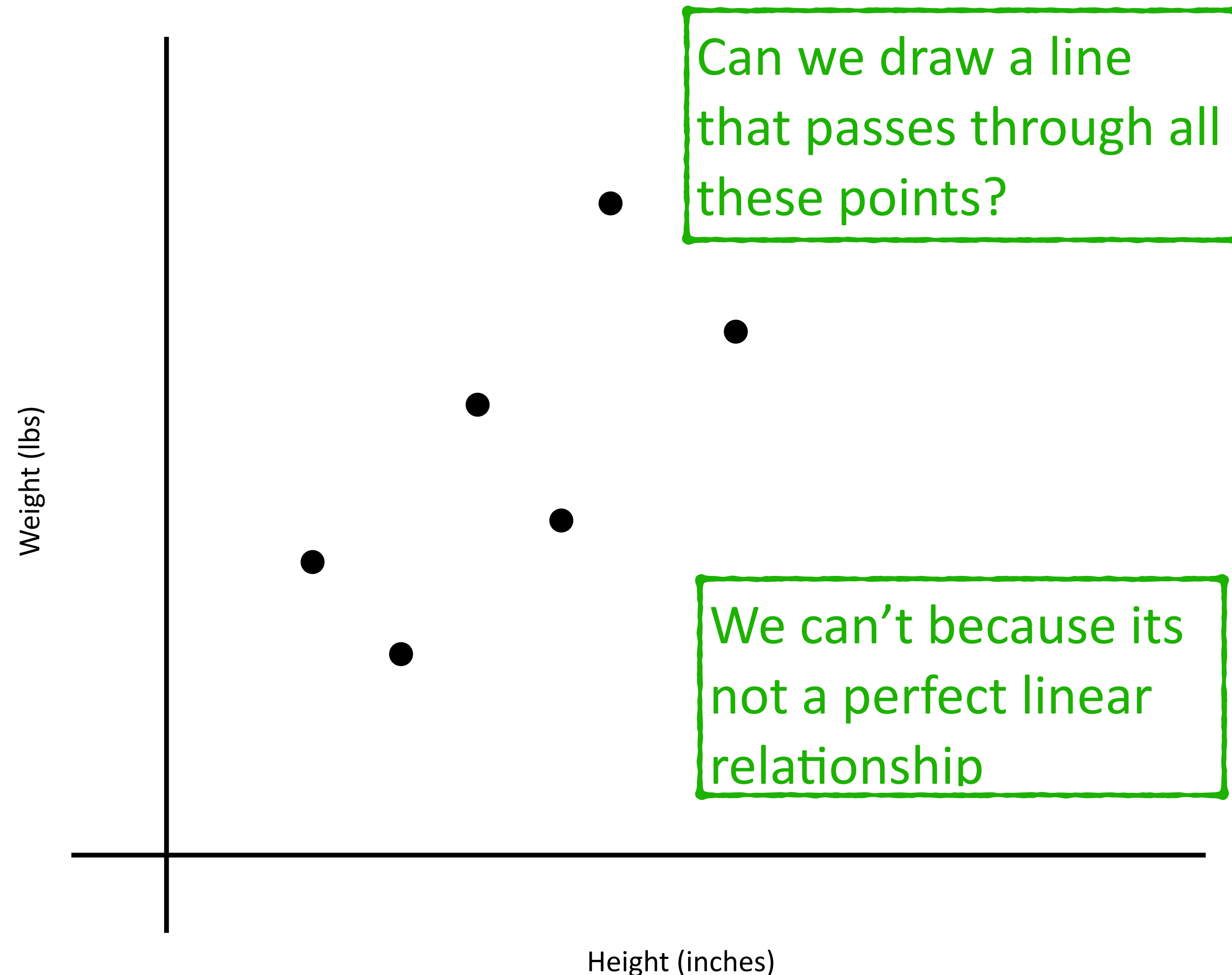
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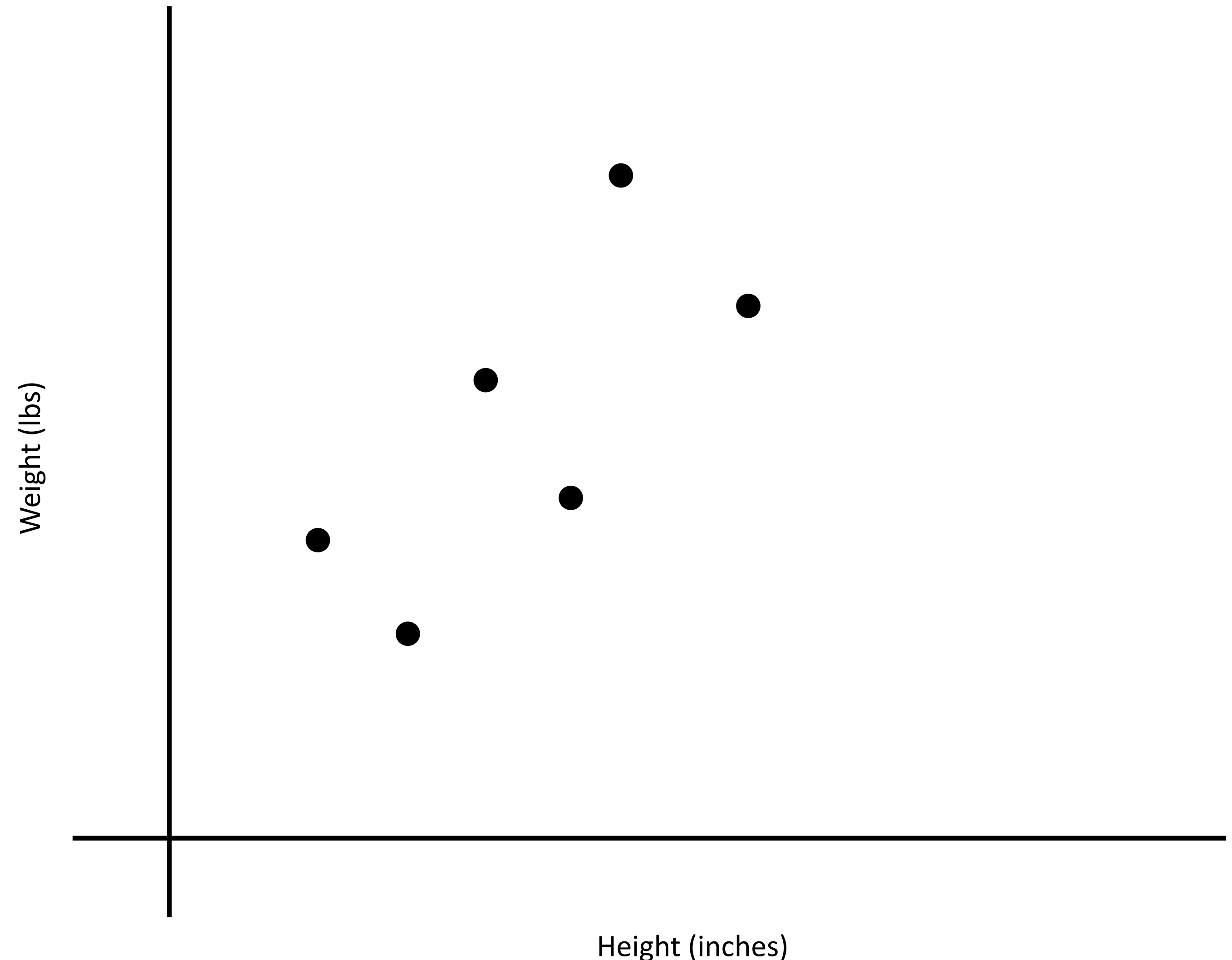
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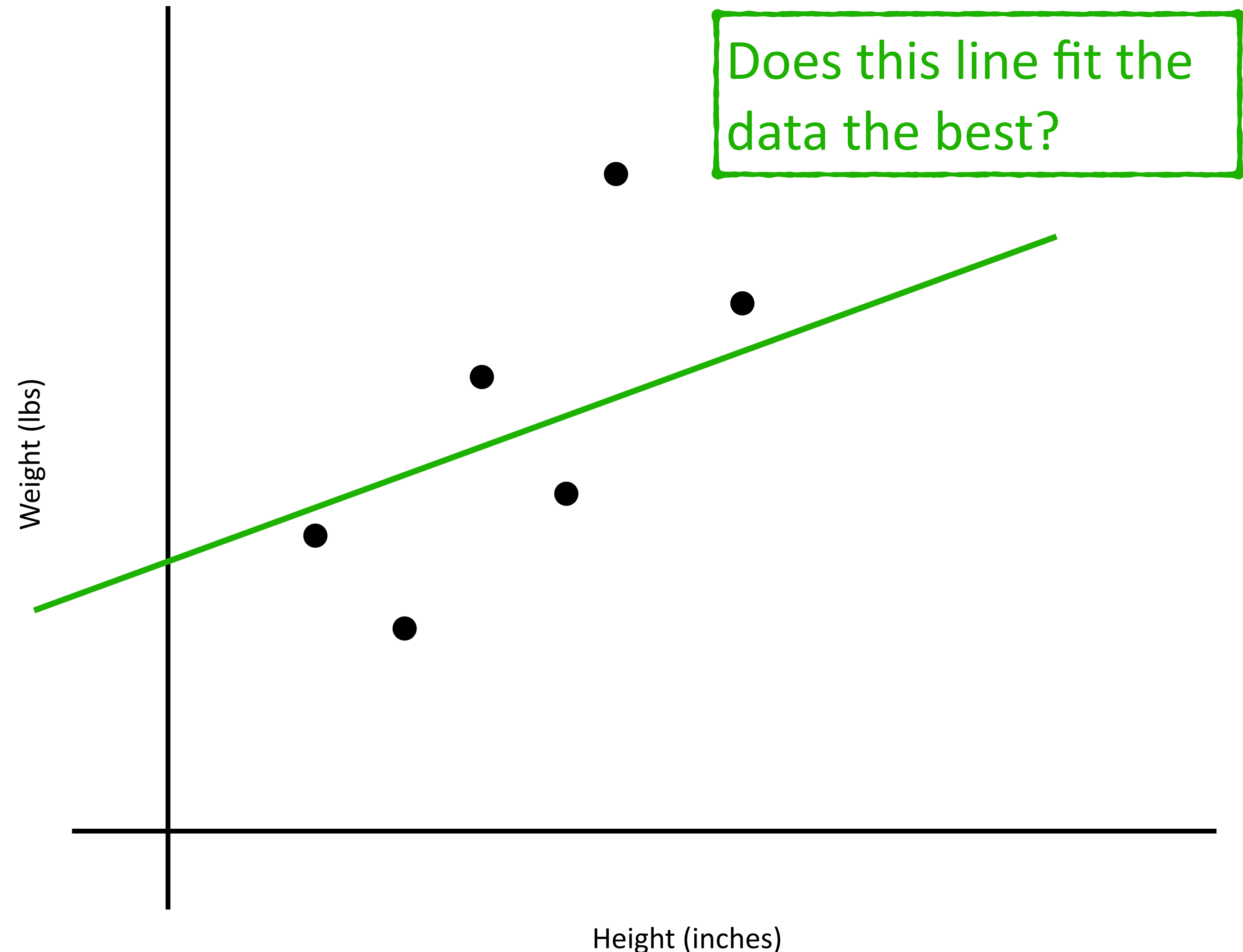
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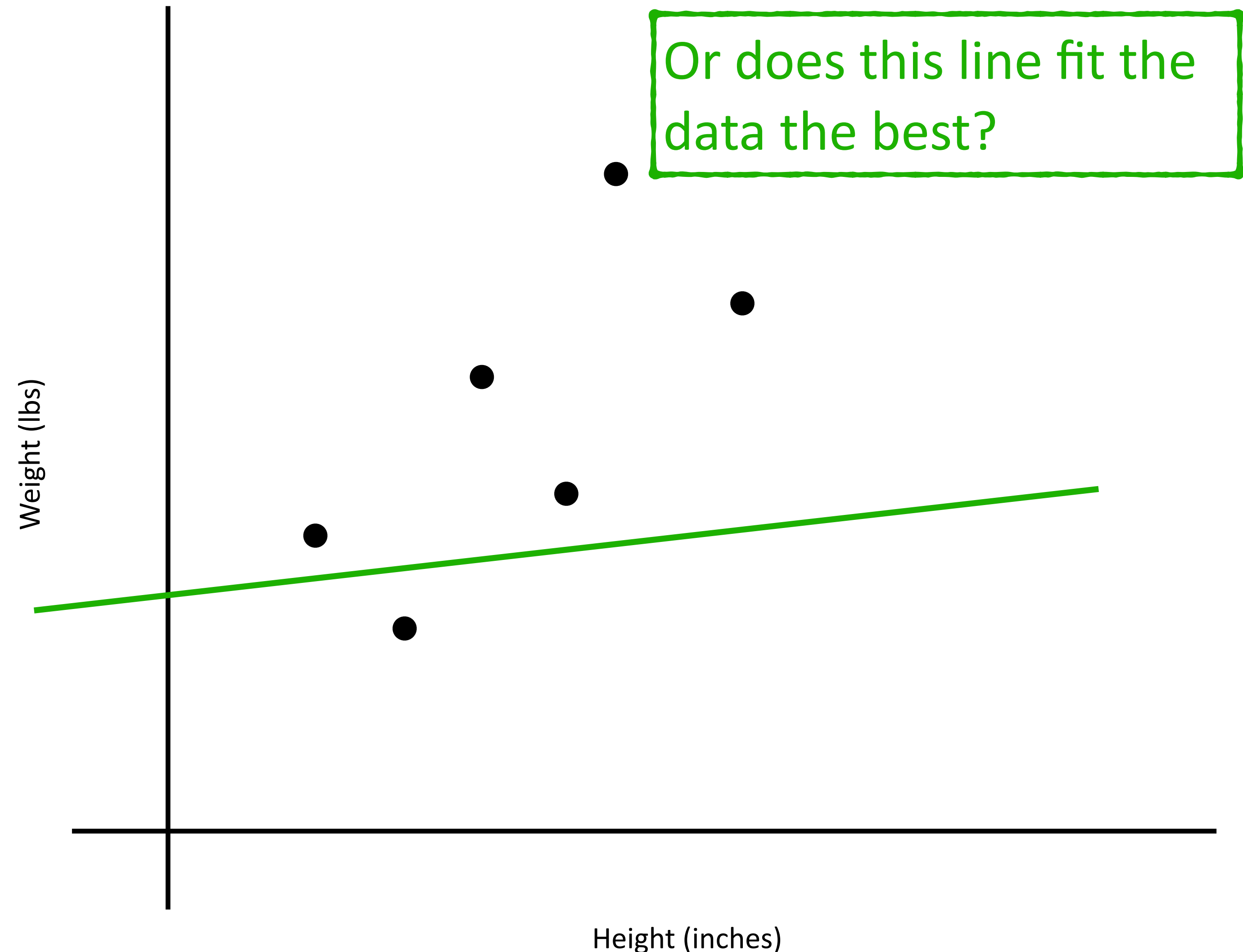
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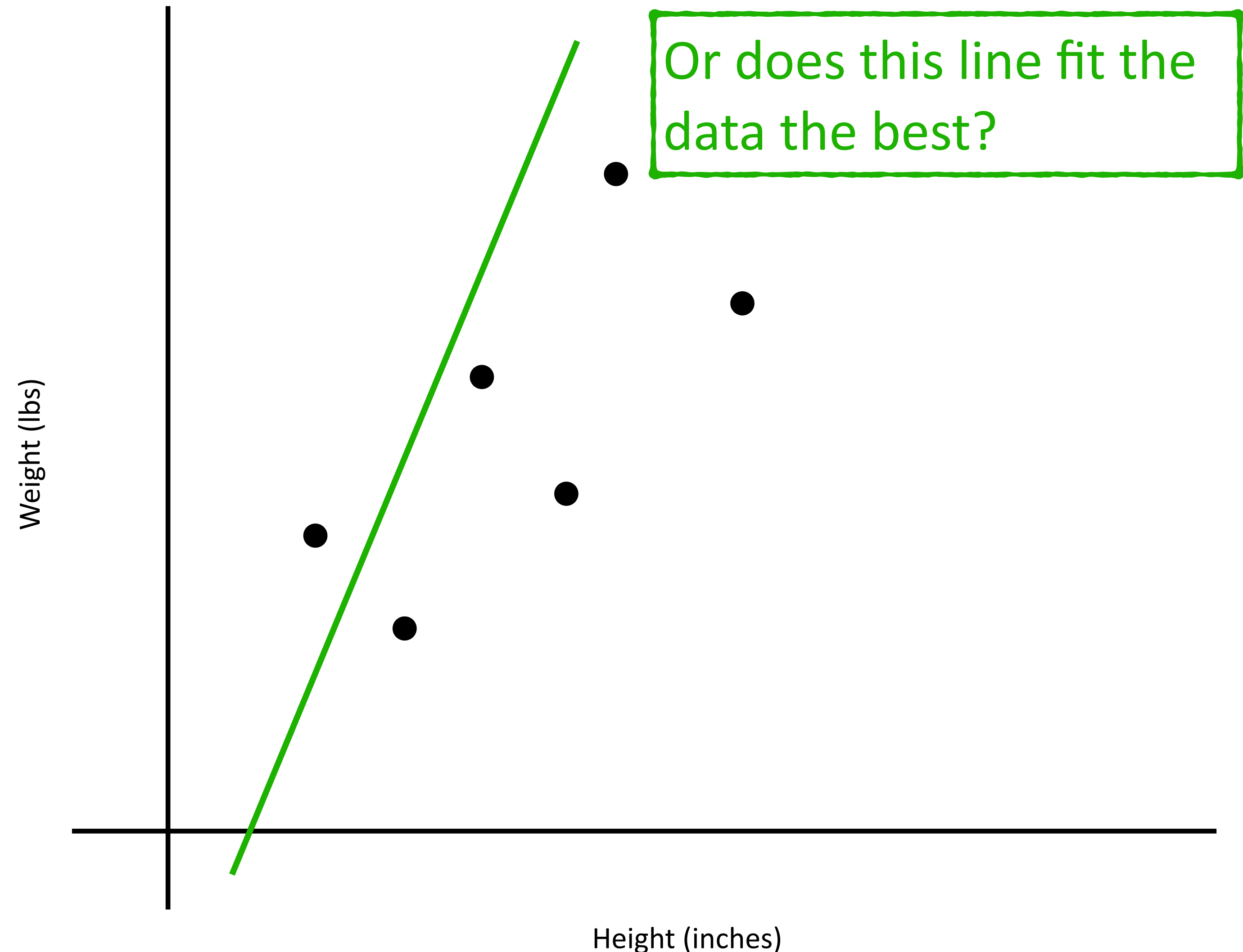
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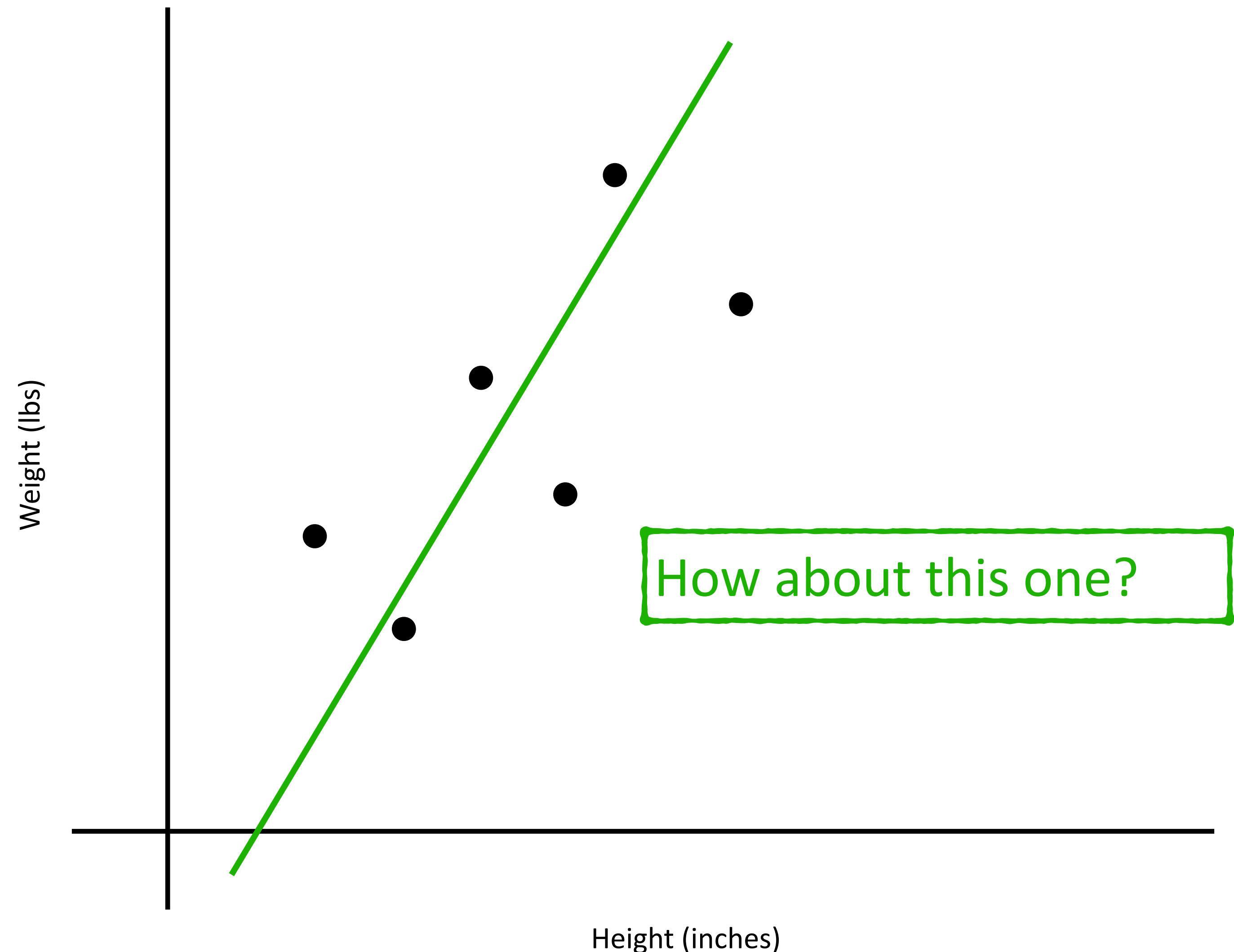
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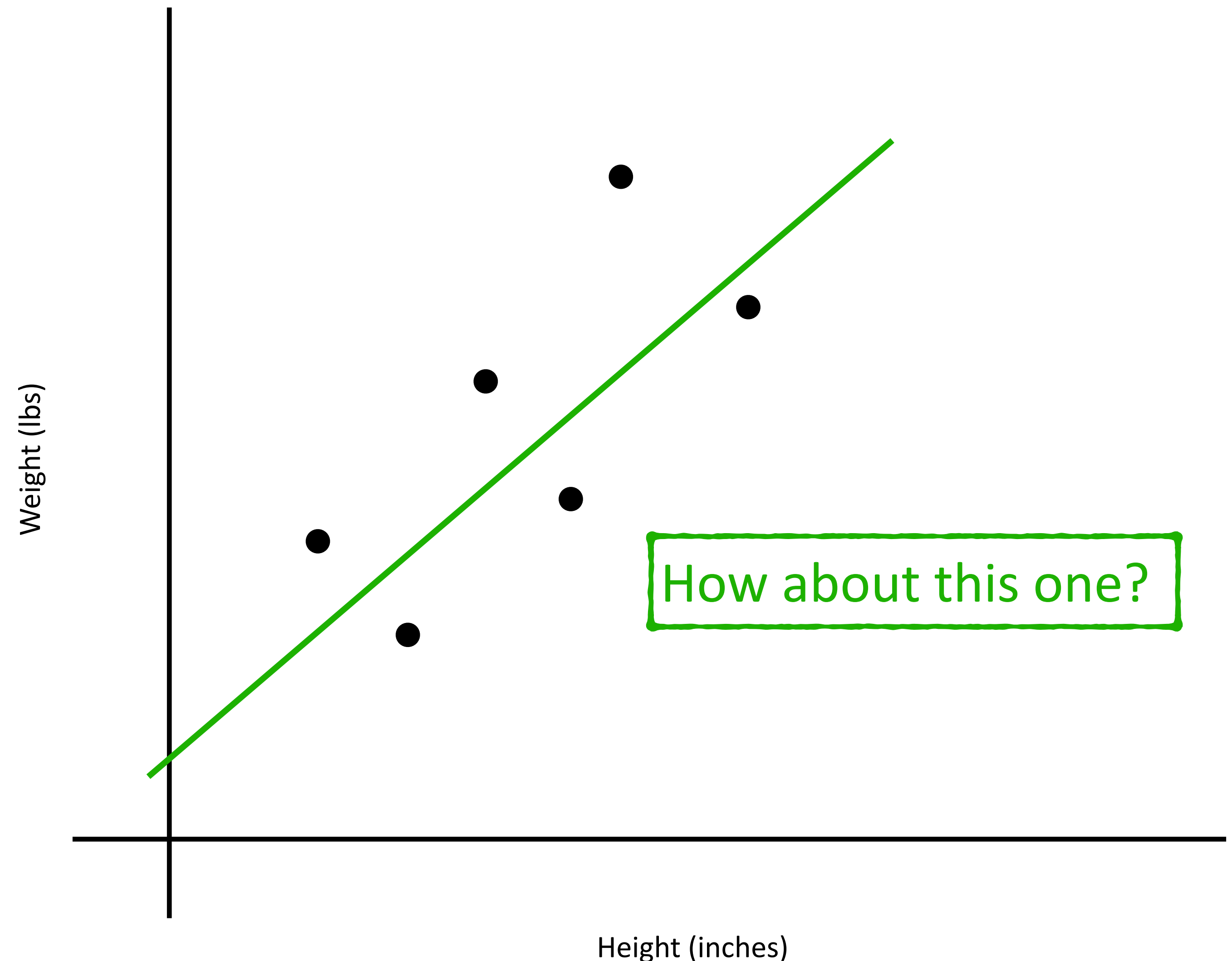
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**Problem Statement:** Find the line that **best** fits the given data.

Height (inches)

# Simple Linear Regression

## A realistic example...

We observe the heights and weights of 6 people

**Problem Statement:** Given a set of data points in  $\mathbf{R}^2$ ,  $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), (x_3, y_3) \dots (x_n, y_n)$ , find the line that **best** fits the data

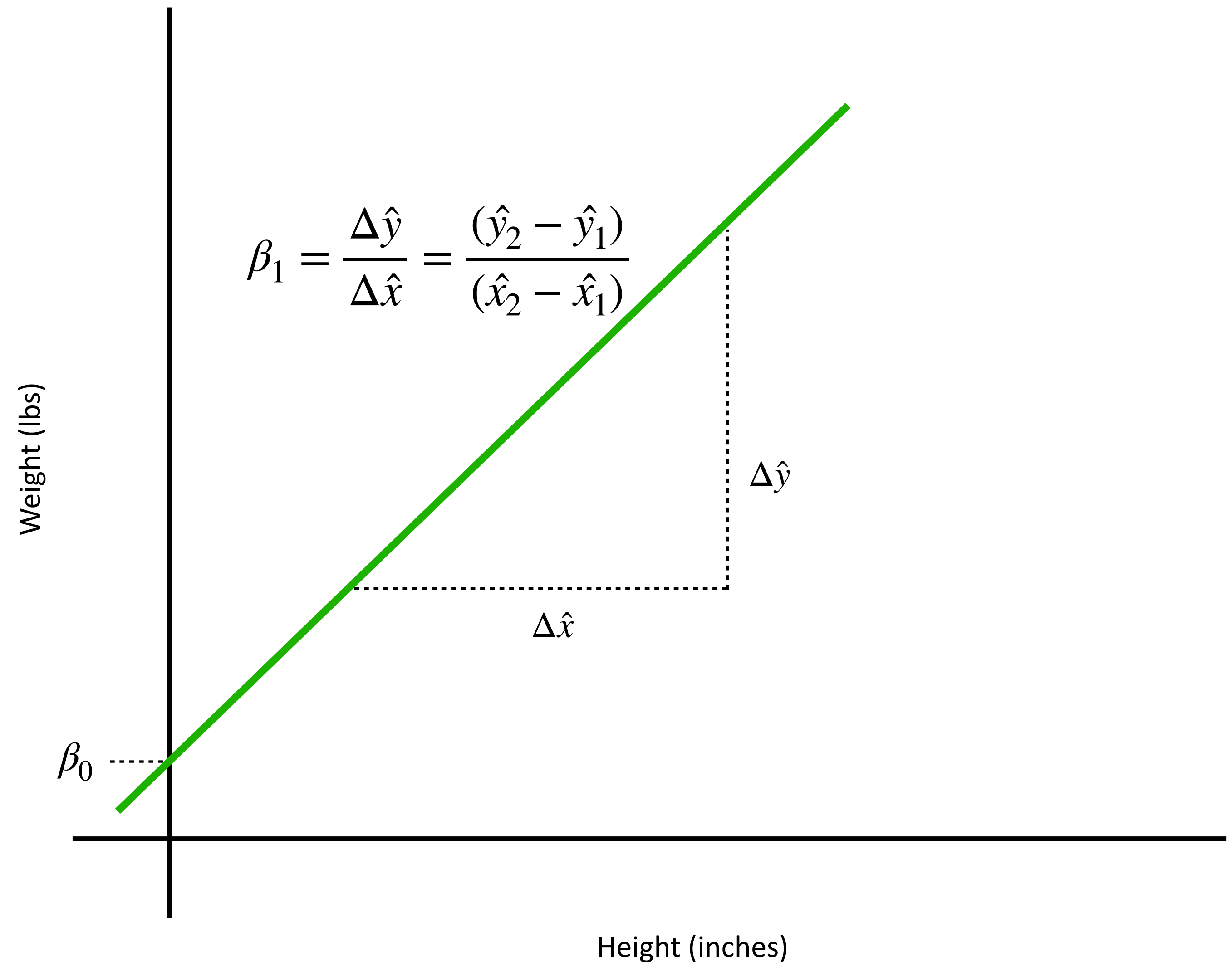
Height (inches)

# Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is  $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

$\beta_0$  Is the Y intercept

$\beta_1$  Is the slope of the line



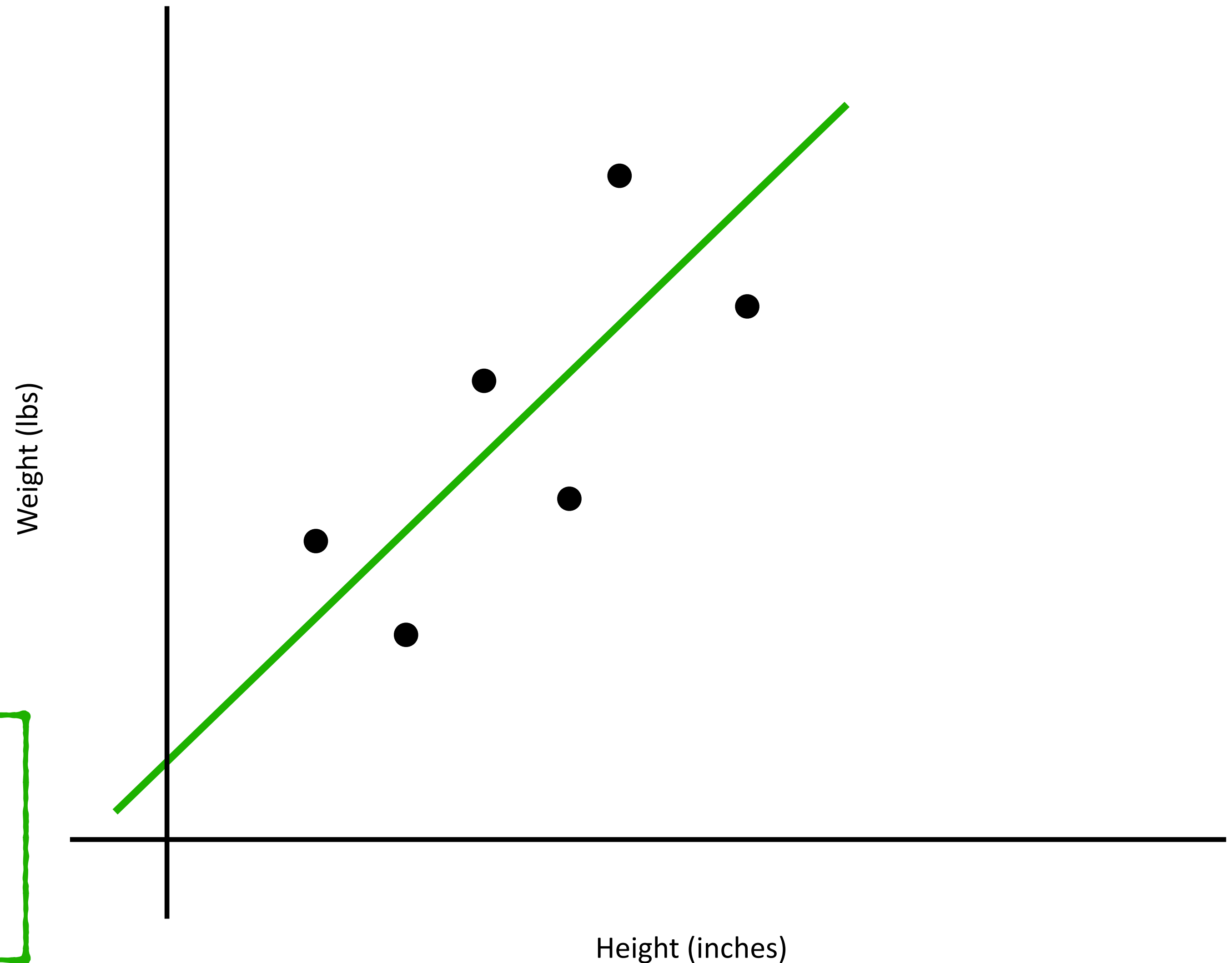
# Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is  $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

$\beta_0$  Is the Y intercept

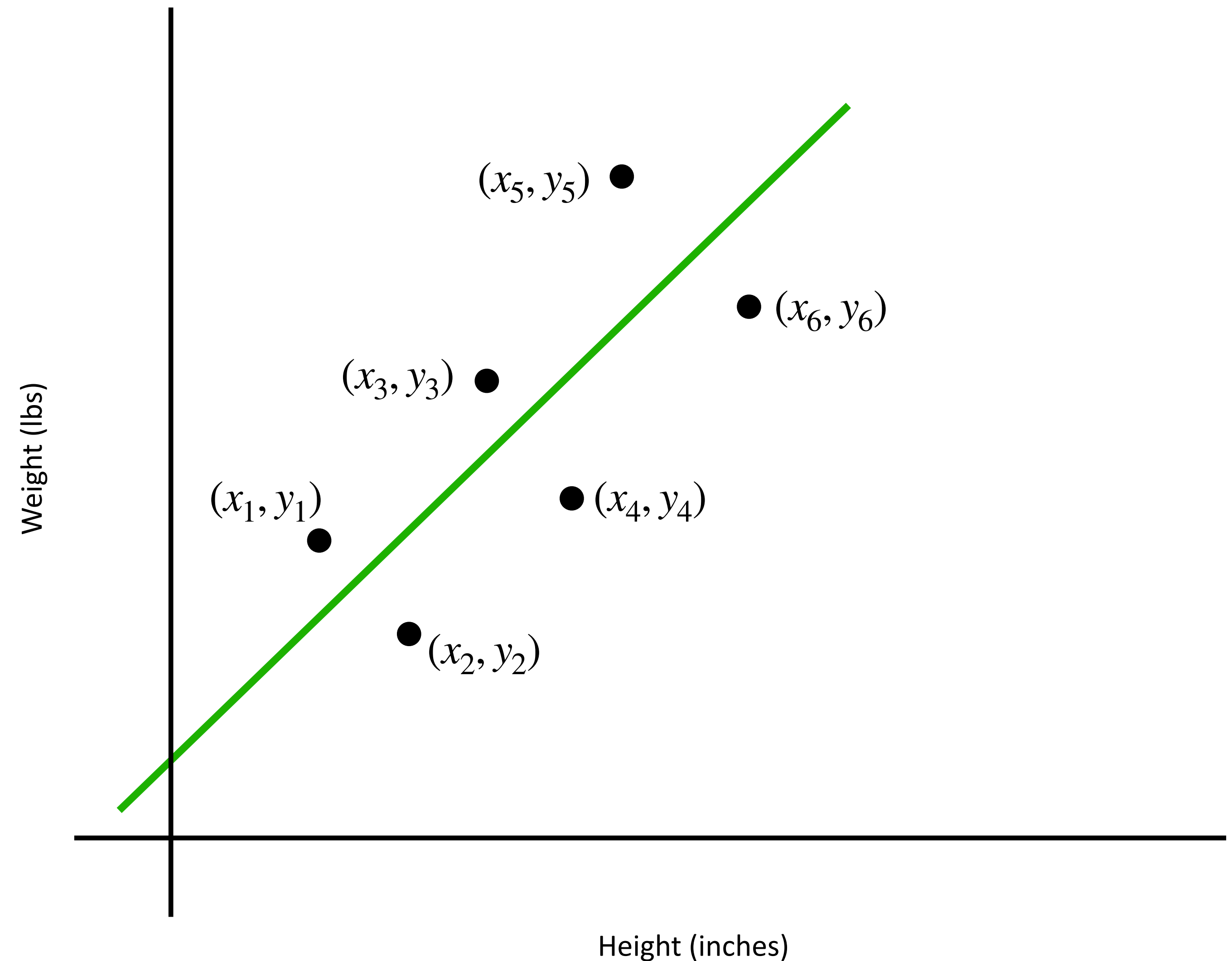
$\beta_1$  Is the slope of the line

**Problem Statement:** Find the values of  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  for the line that best fits the given data.



# Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is  $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

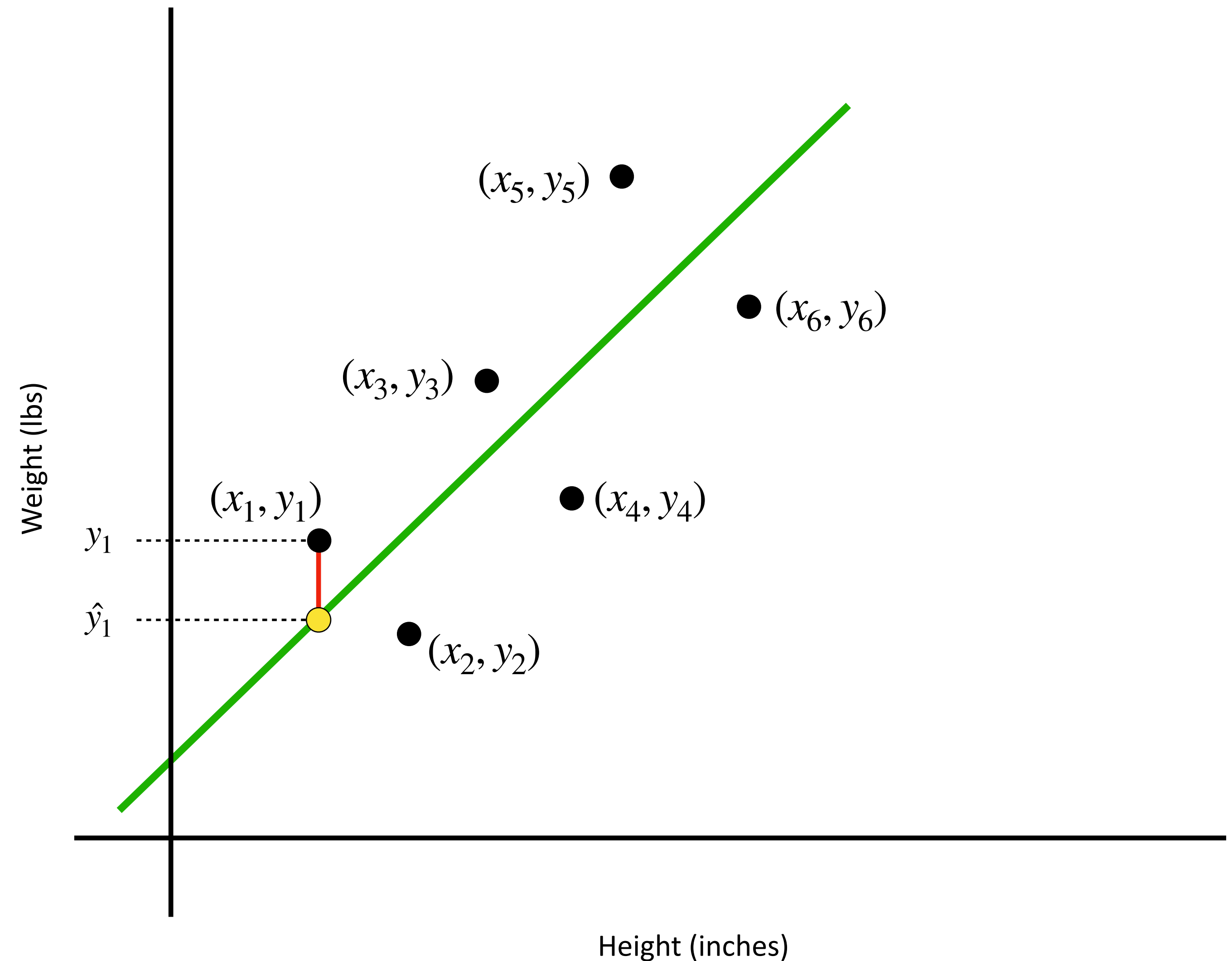


# Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is  $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

For each point calculate the distance to the line (the error)

$$(y_1 - \hat{y}_1)$$

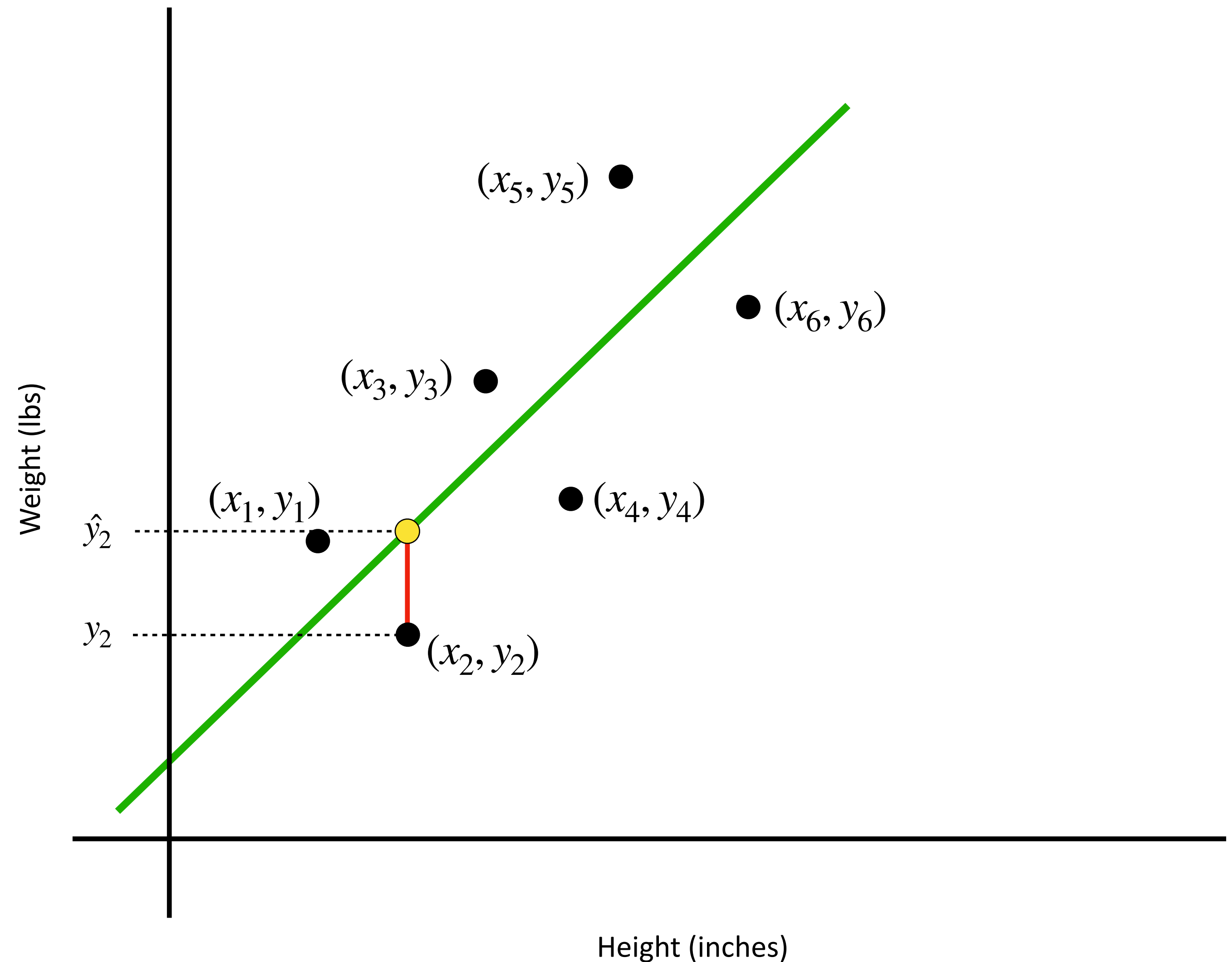


# Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is  $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

For each point calculate the distance to the line (the error)

$$(y_1 - \hat{y}_1) + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2)$$

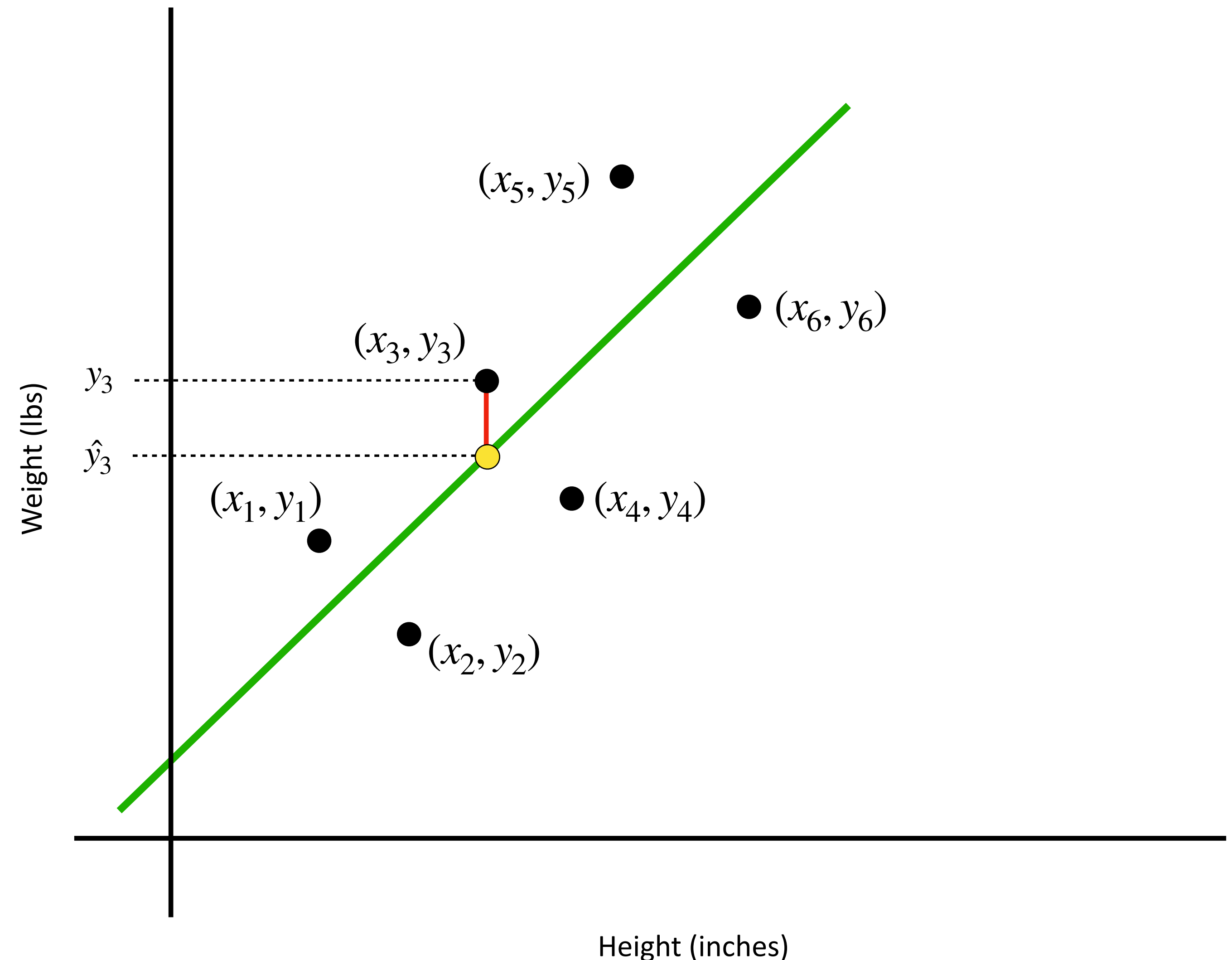


# Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is  $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

For each point calculate the distance to the line (the error)

$$(y_1 - \hat{y}_1) + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2) + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3)$$

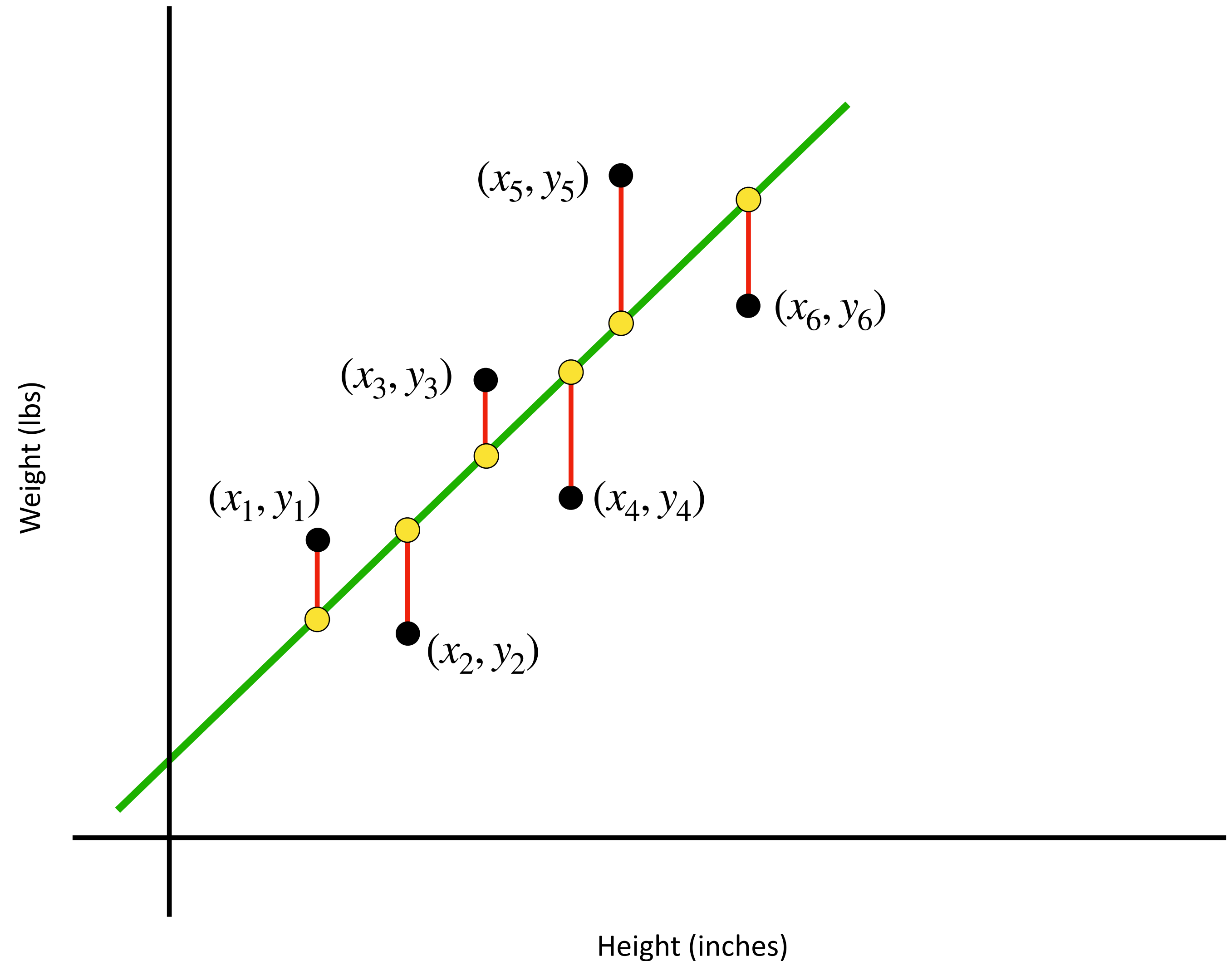


# Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is  $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

For each point calculate the distance to the line (the error)

$$(y_1 - \hat{y}_1) + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2) + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3) \\ + (y_4 - \hat{y}_4) + (y_5 - \hat{y}_5) + (y_6 - \hat{y}_6)$$



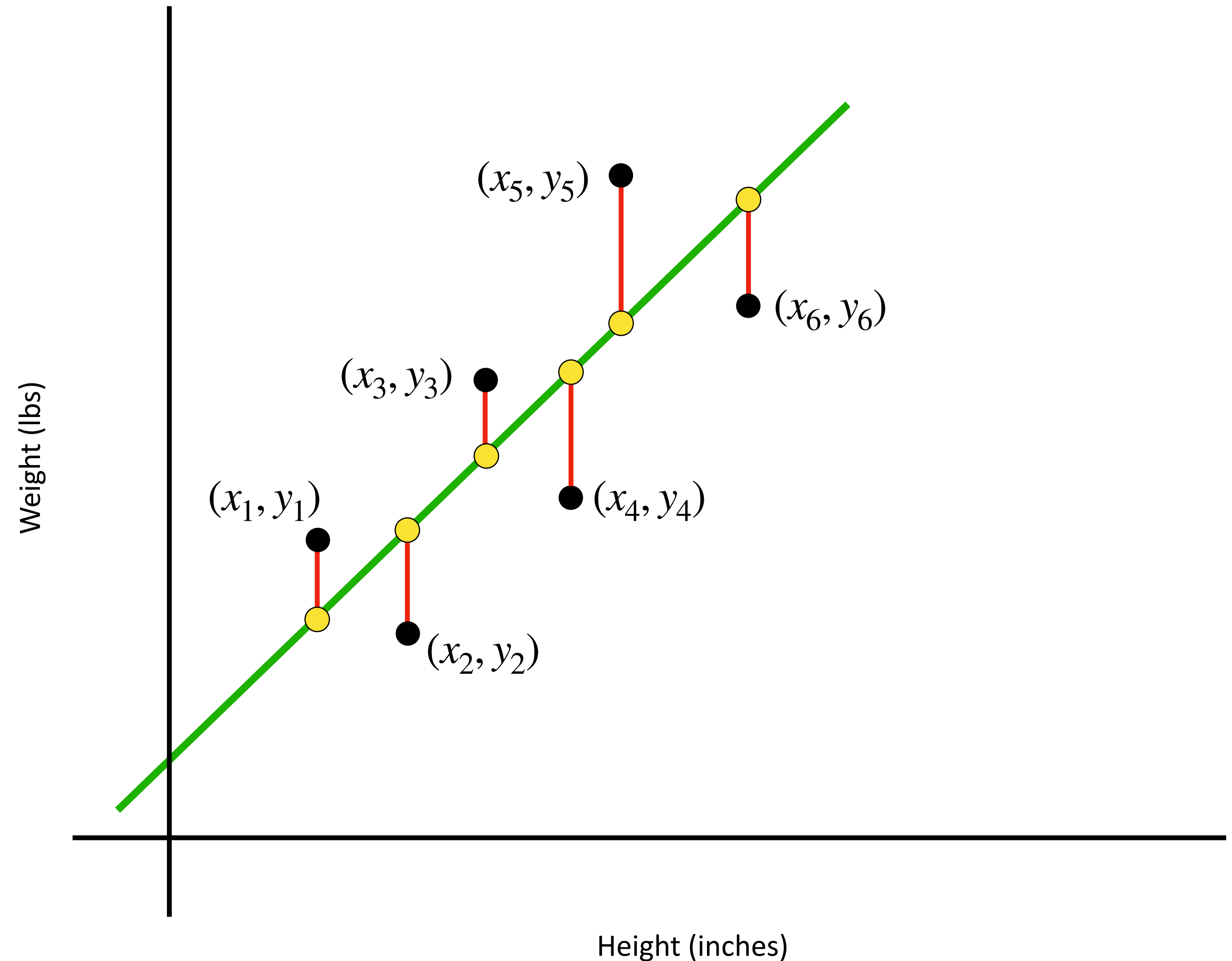
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But there's a small problem...



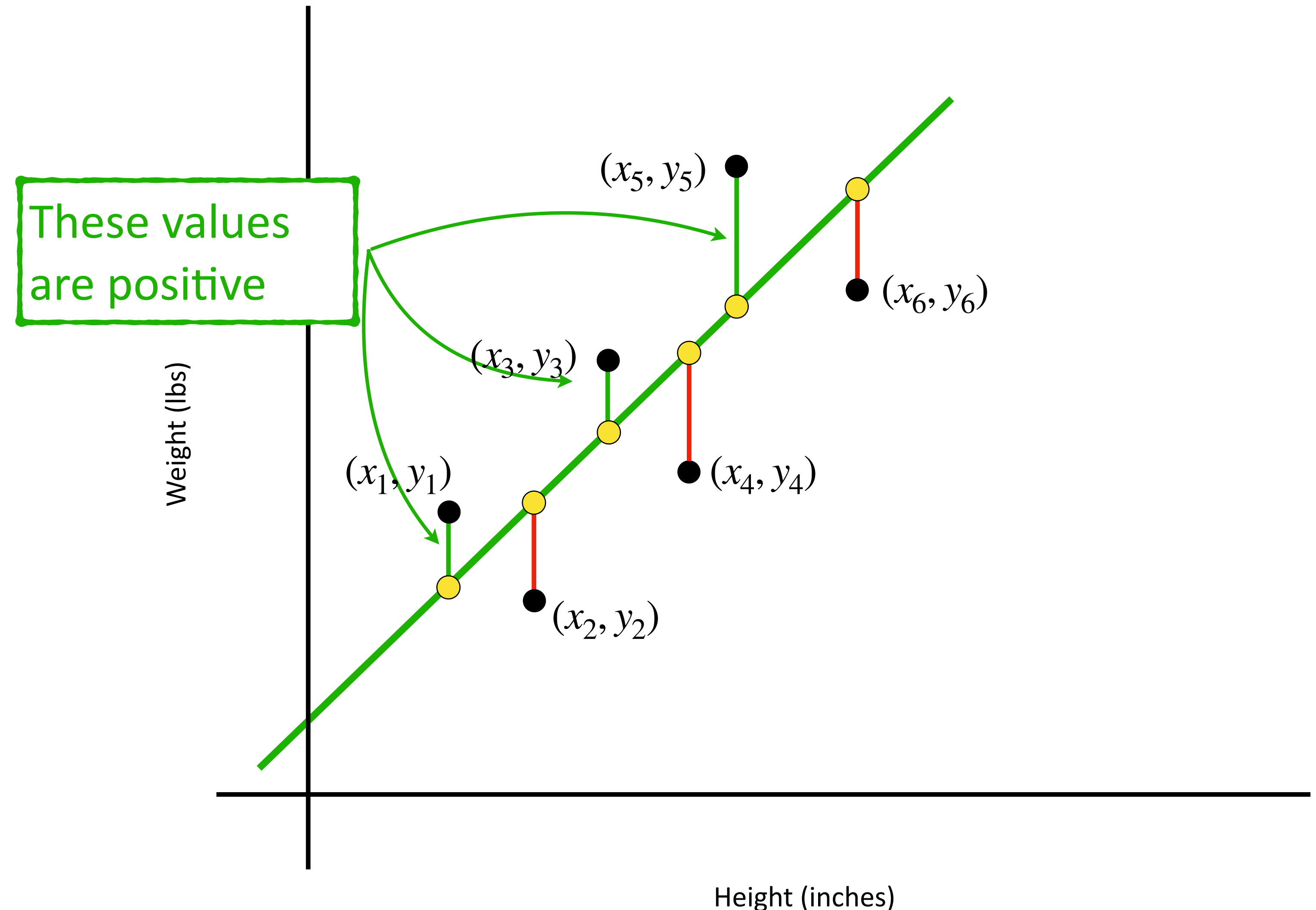
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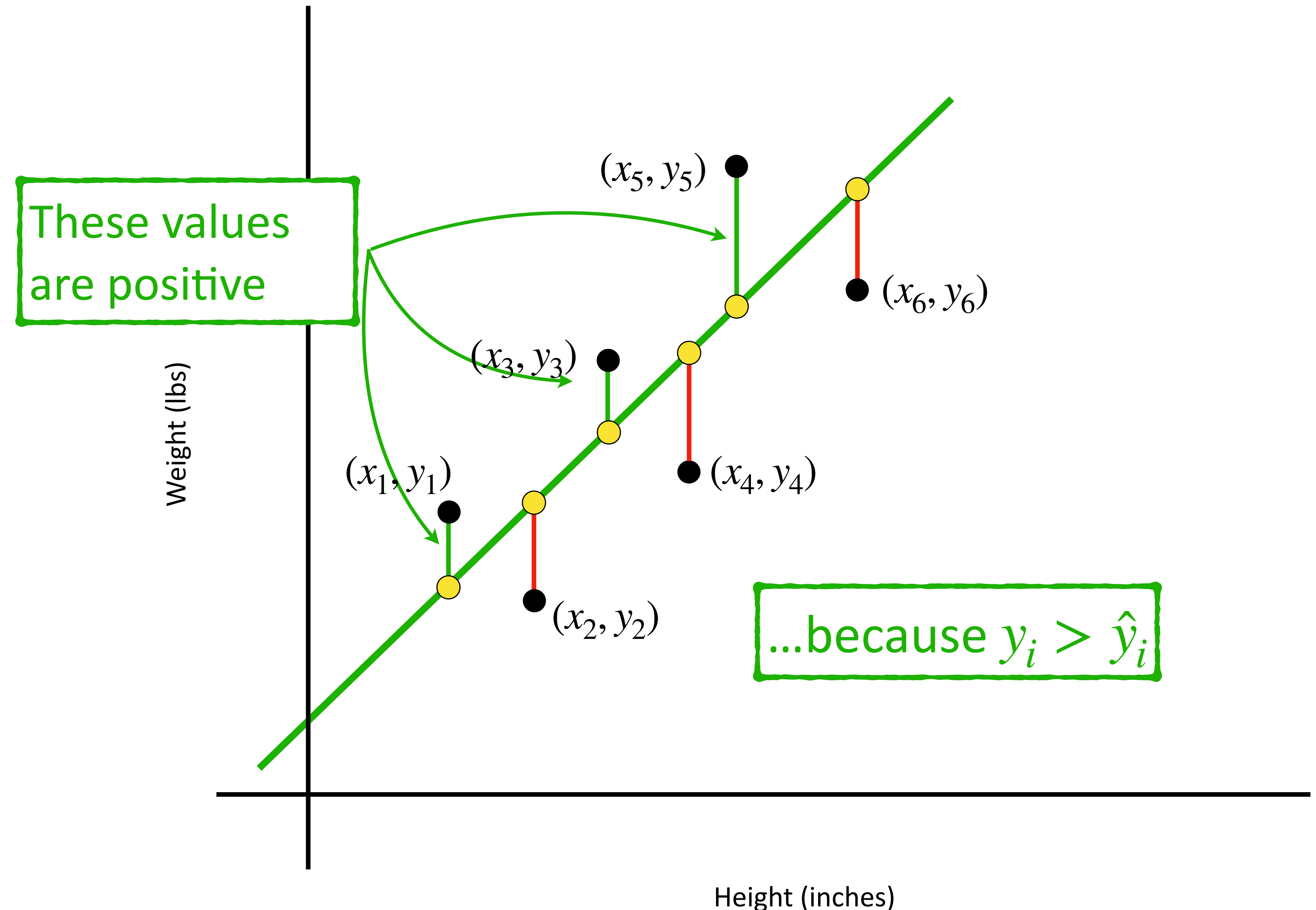
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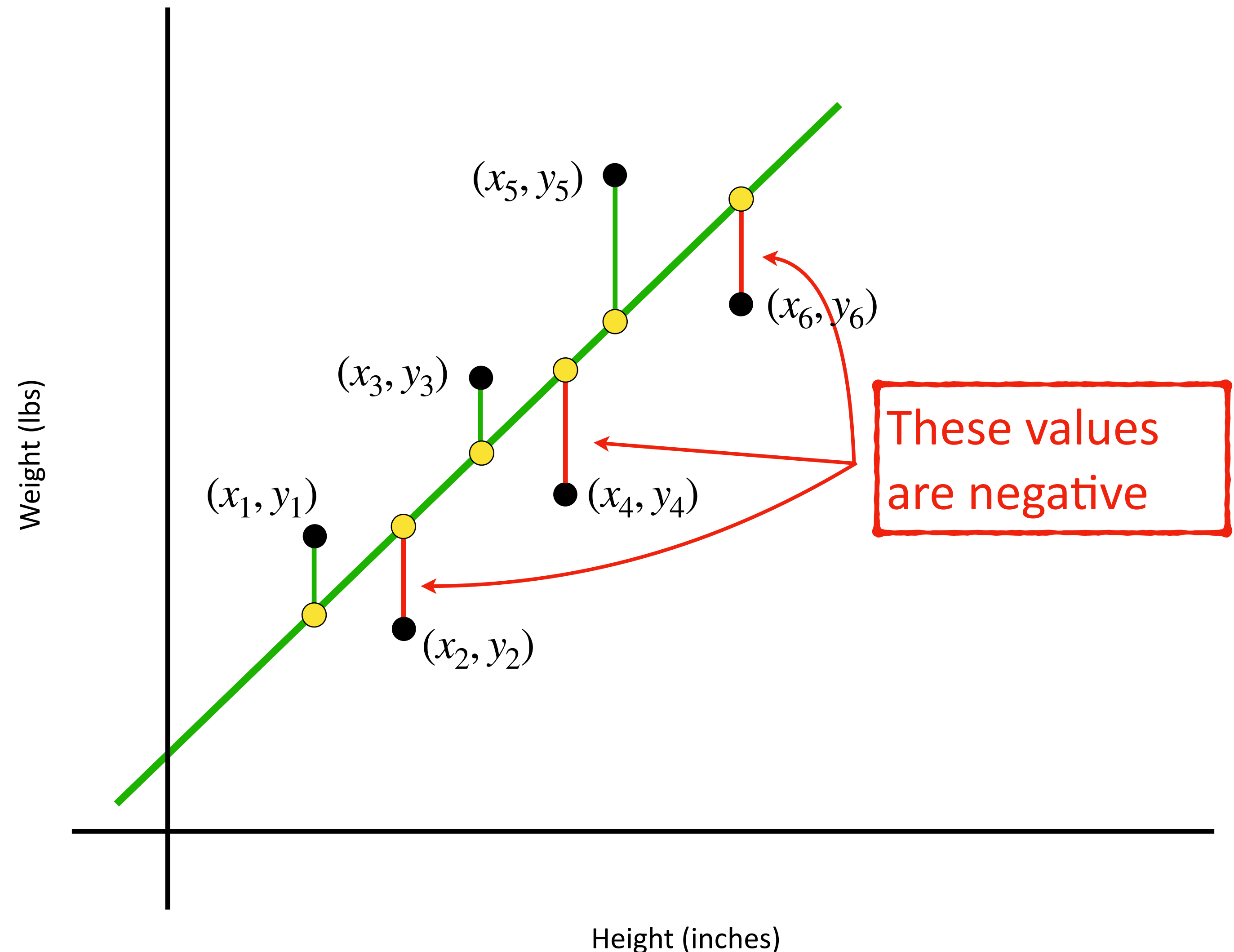
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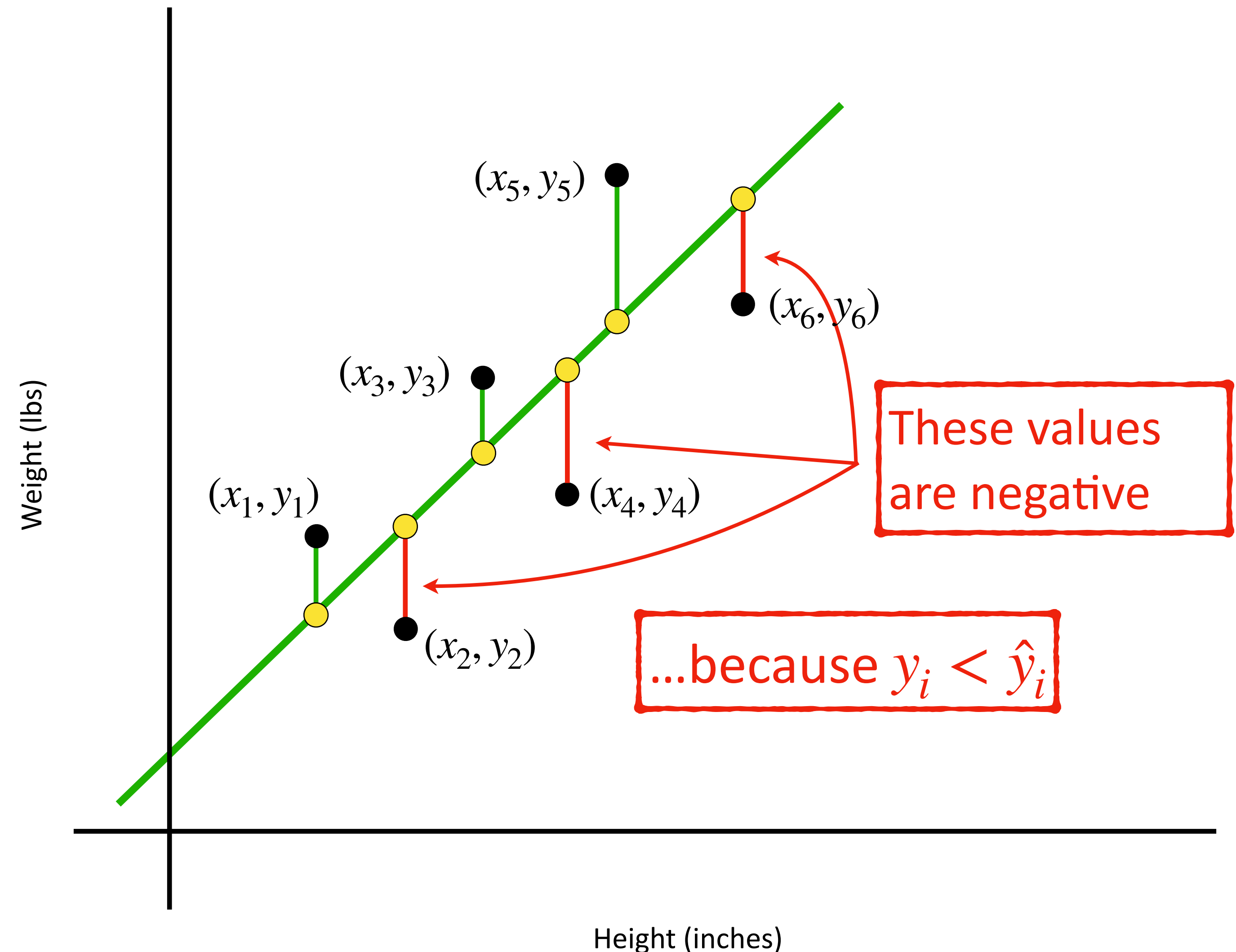
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But there's a small problem...



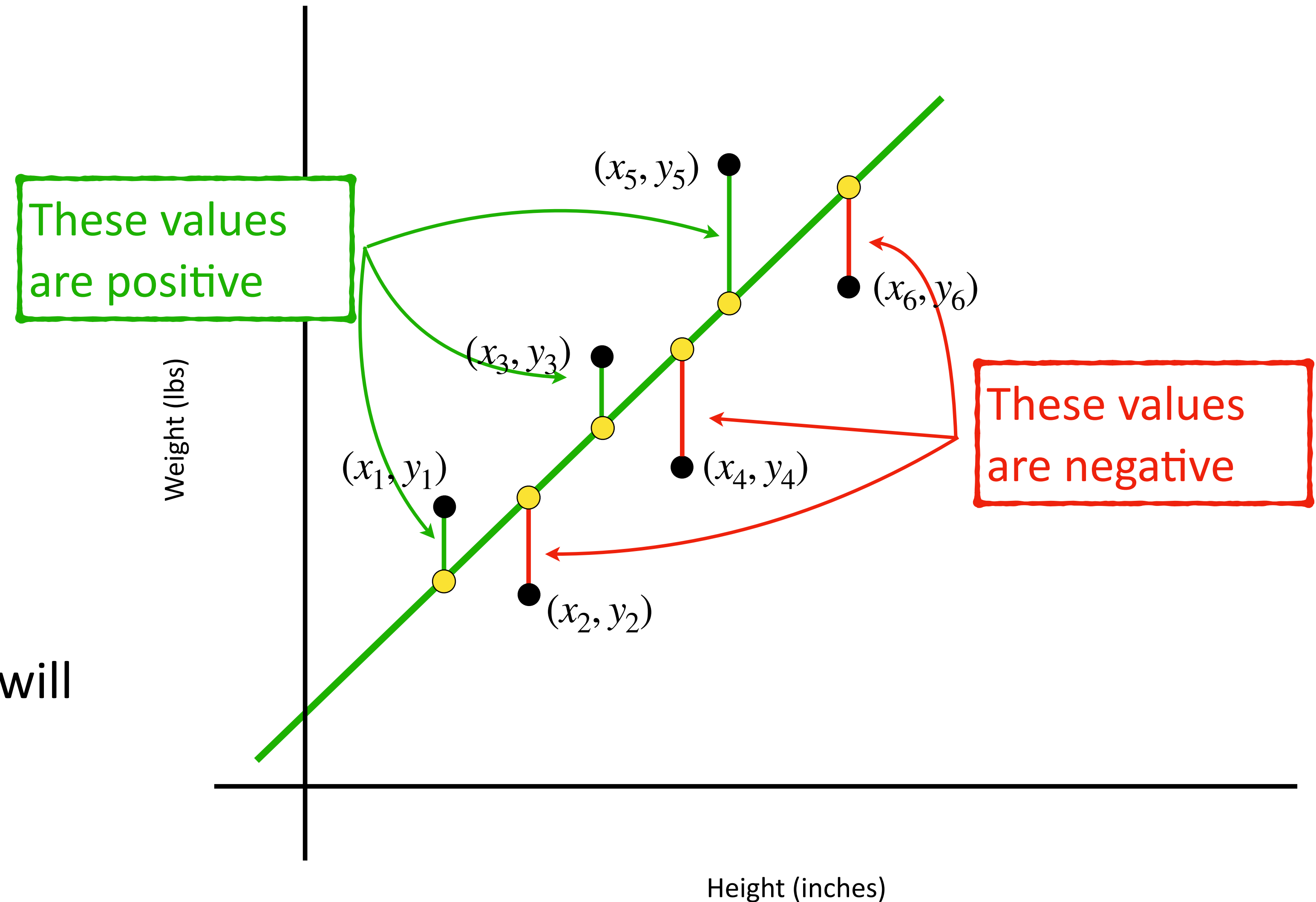
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... the **positive** and **negative** values will cancel each other out



# Simple Linear Regression

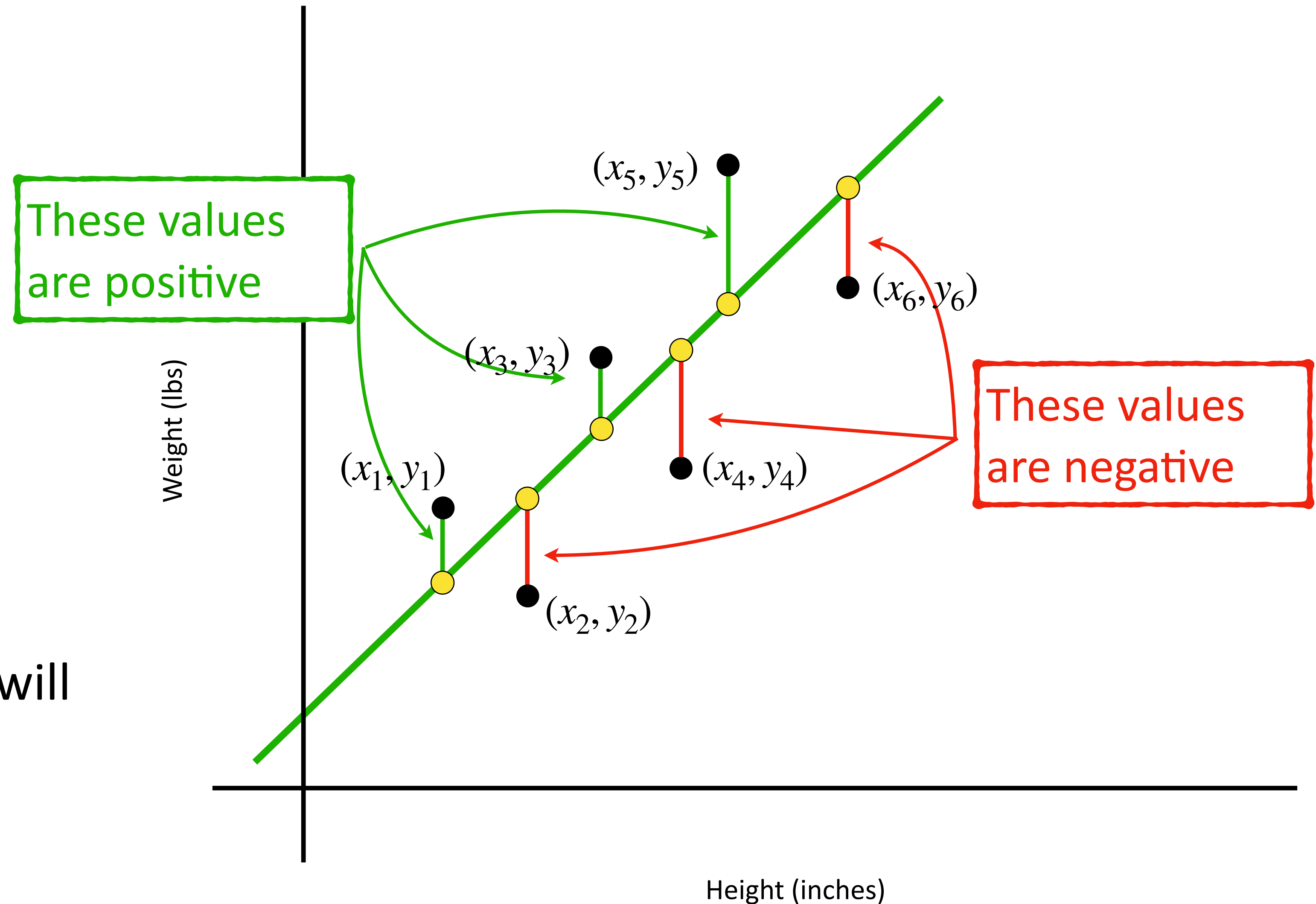
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$$(y_1 - \hat{y}_1) + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2) + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3) \\ + (y_4 - \hat{y}_4) + (y_5 - \hat{y}_5) + (y_6 - \hat{y}_6)$$

To fix that, we **square** each term

... the **positive** and **negative** values will cancel each other out



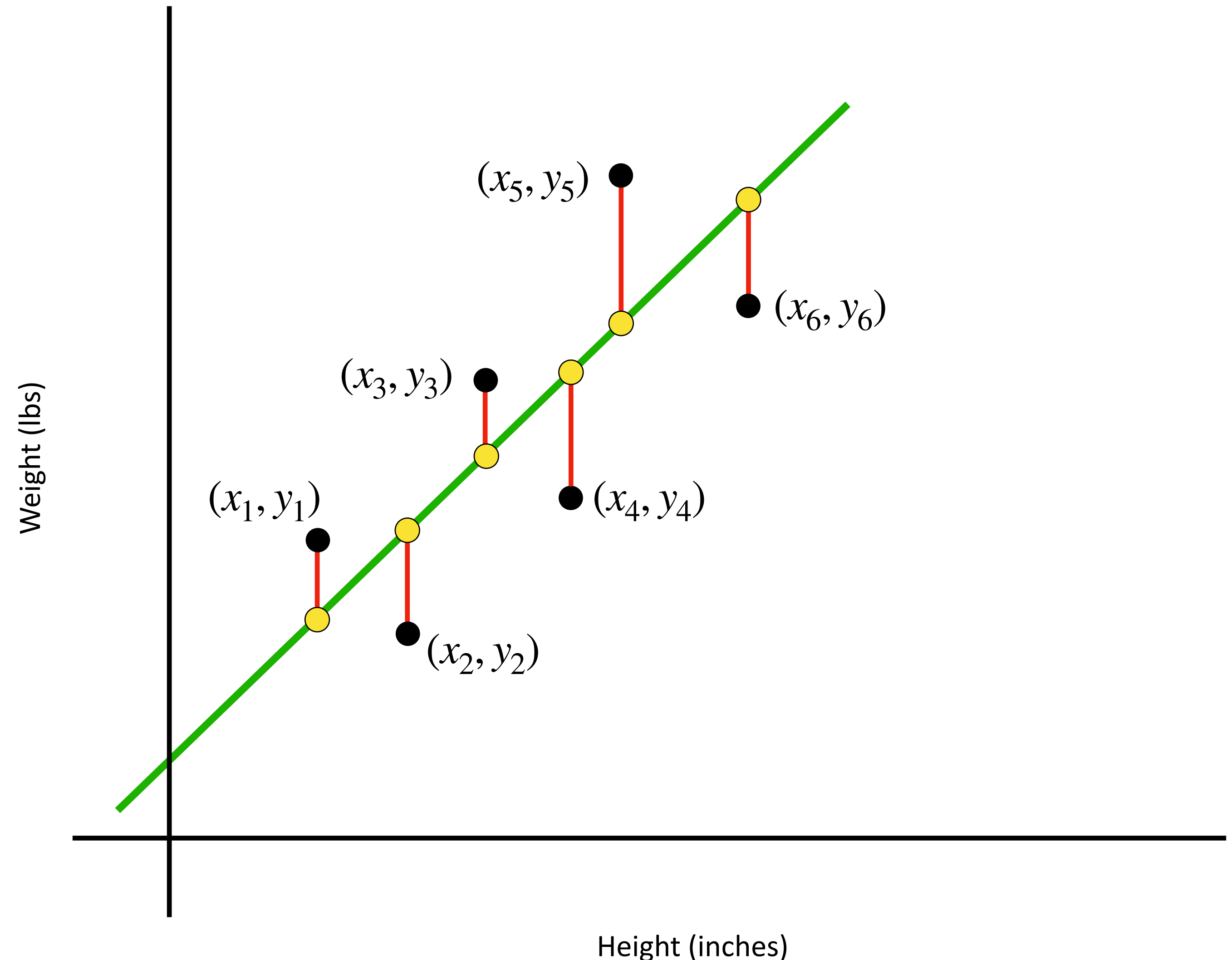
# Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is  $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

$$(y_1 - \hat{y}_1)^2 + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2)^2 + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3)^2 \\ + (y_4 - \hat{y}_4)^2 + (y_5 - \hat{y}_5)^2 + (y_6 - \hat{y}_6)^2$$

To fix that, we **square** each term

This is the sum of squared errors.

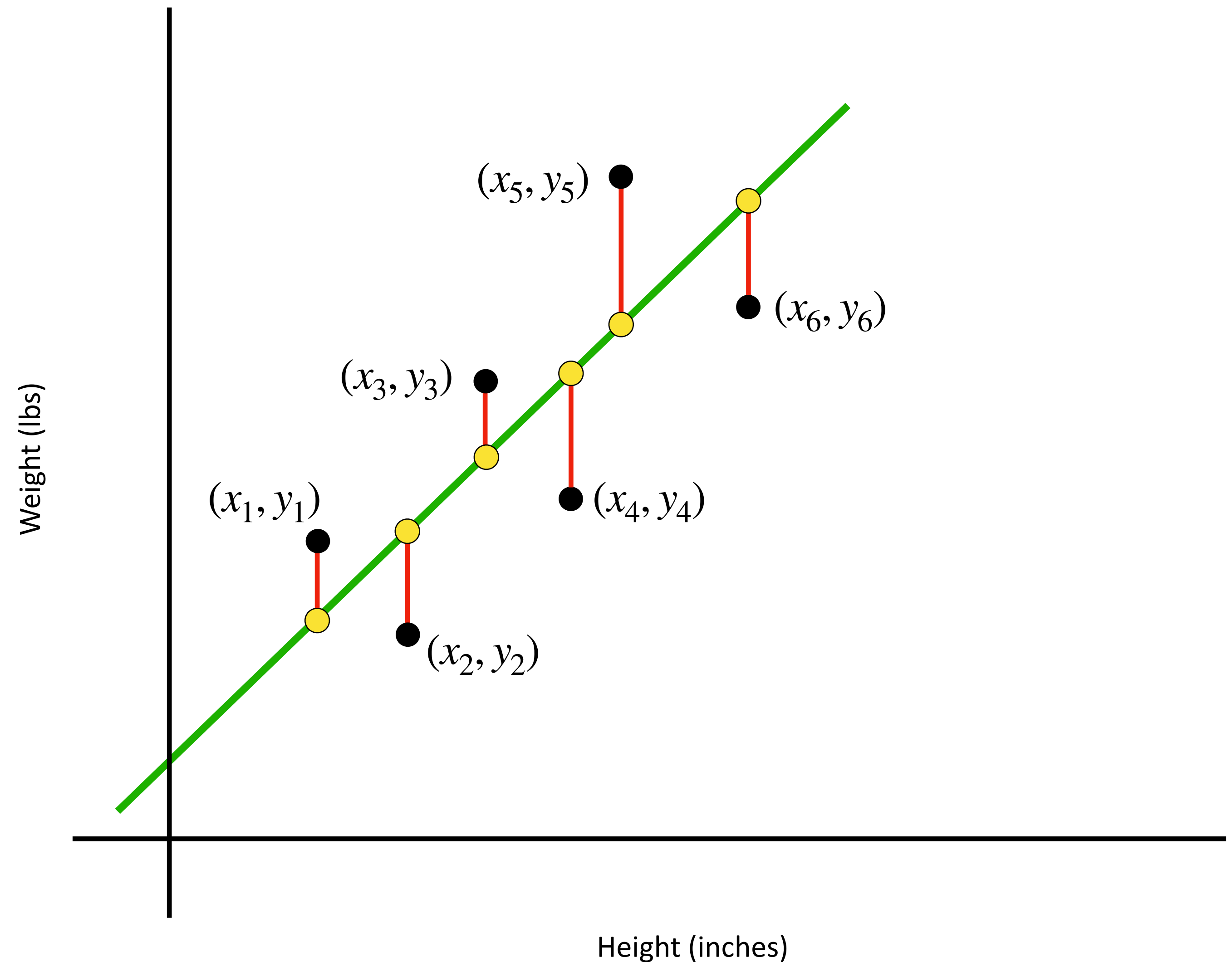


# Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is  $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

**Sum of squared errors:**

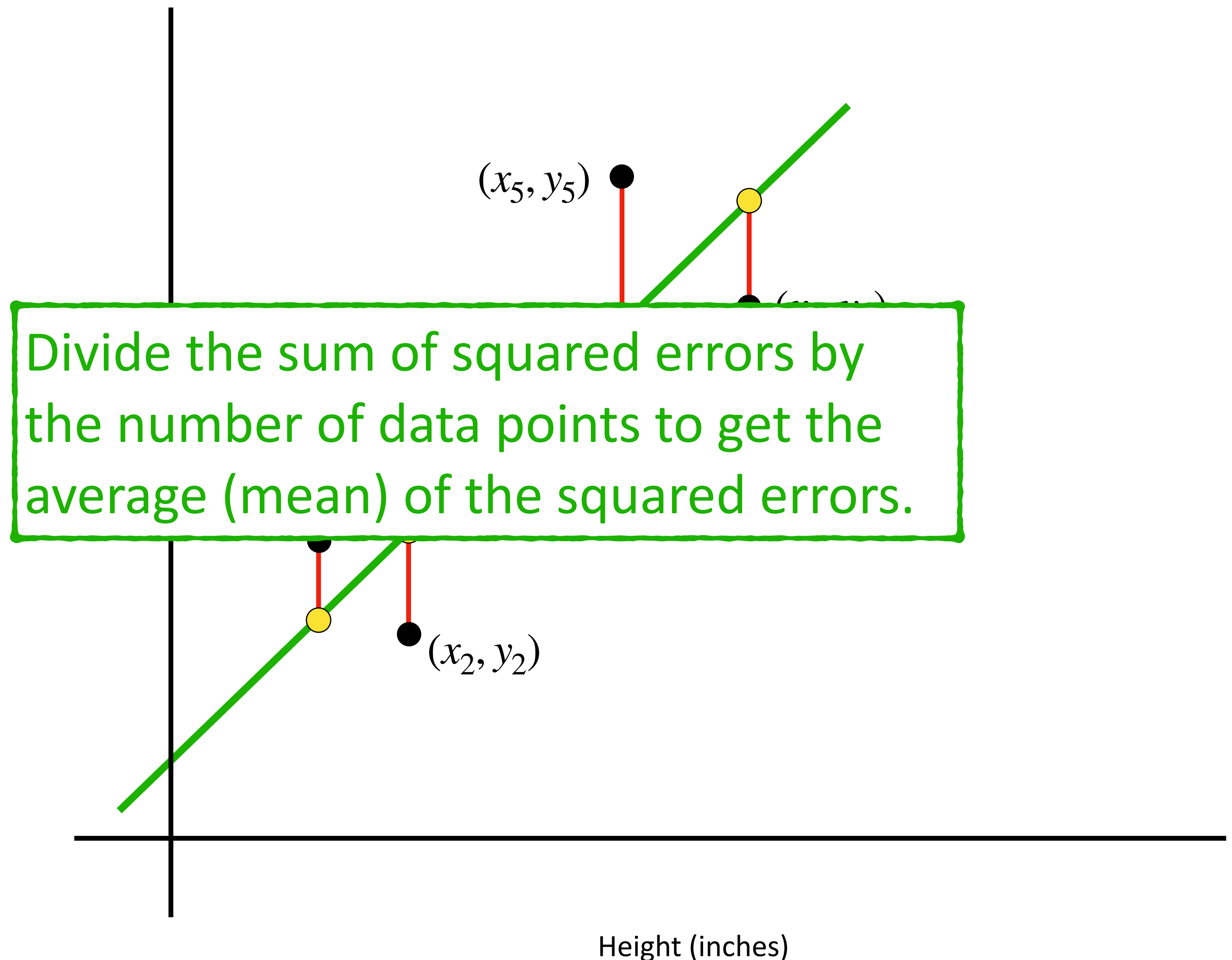
$$(y_1 - \hat{y}_1)^2 + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2)^2 + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3)^2 \\ + (y_4 - \hat{y}_4)^2 + (y_5 - \hat{y}_5)^2 + (y_6 - \hat{y}_6)^2$$



# Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is  $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

$$\frac{(y_1 - \hat{y}_1)^2 + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2)^2 + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3)^2 + (y_4 - \hat{y}_4)^2 + (y_5 - \hat{y}_5)^2 + (y_6 - \hat{y}_6)^2}{n}$$



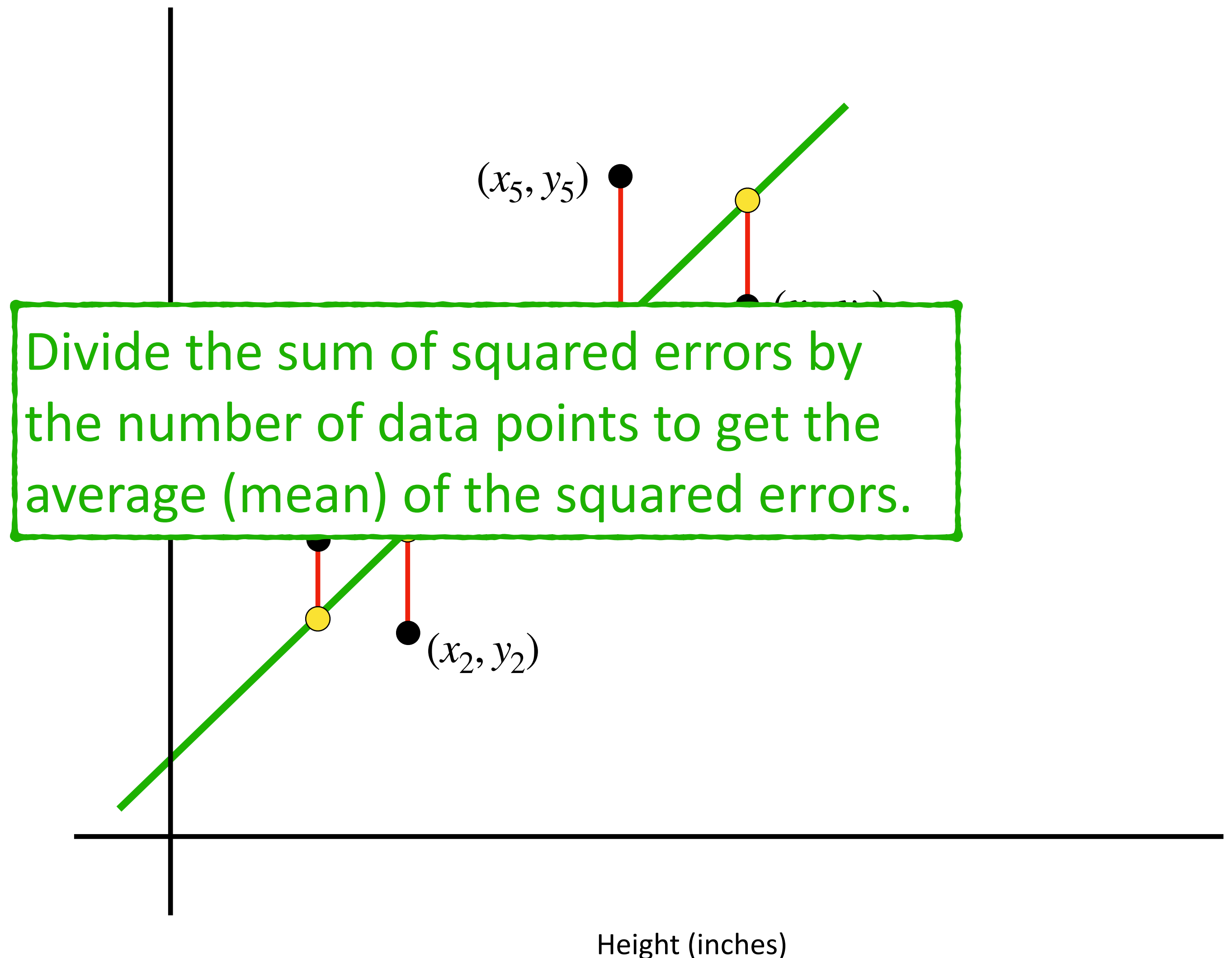
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The line of best fit is  $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

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This is the **Mean Square Error (MSE)**

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$



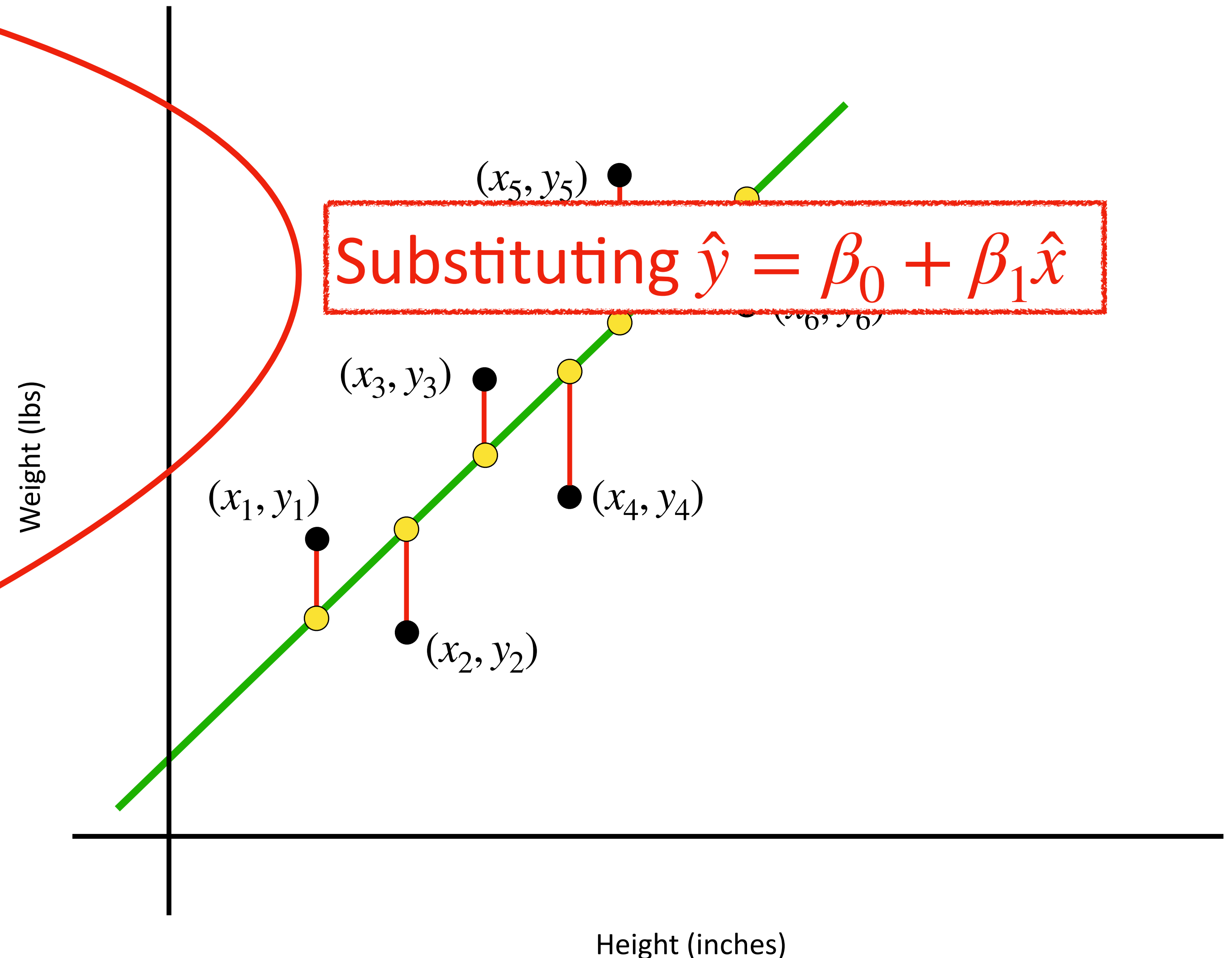
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The line of best fit is  $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

$$\frac{(y_1 - \hat{y}_1)^2 + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2)^2 + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3)^2 + (y_4 - \hat{y}_4)^2 + (y_5 - \hat{y}_5)^2 + (y_6 - \hat{y}_6)^2}{n}$$

This is the **Mean Square Error (MSE)**

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 \hat{x}_i)^2$$



# Simple Linear Regression

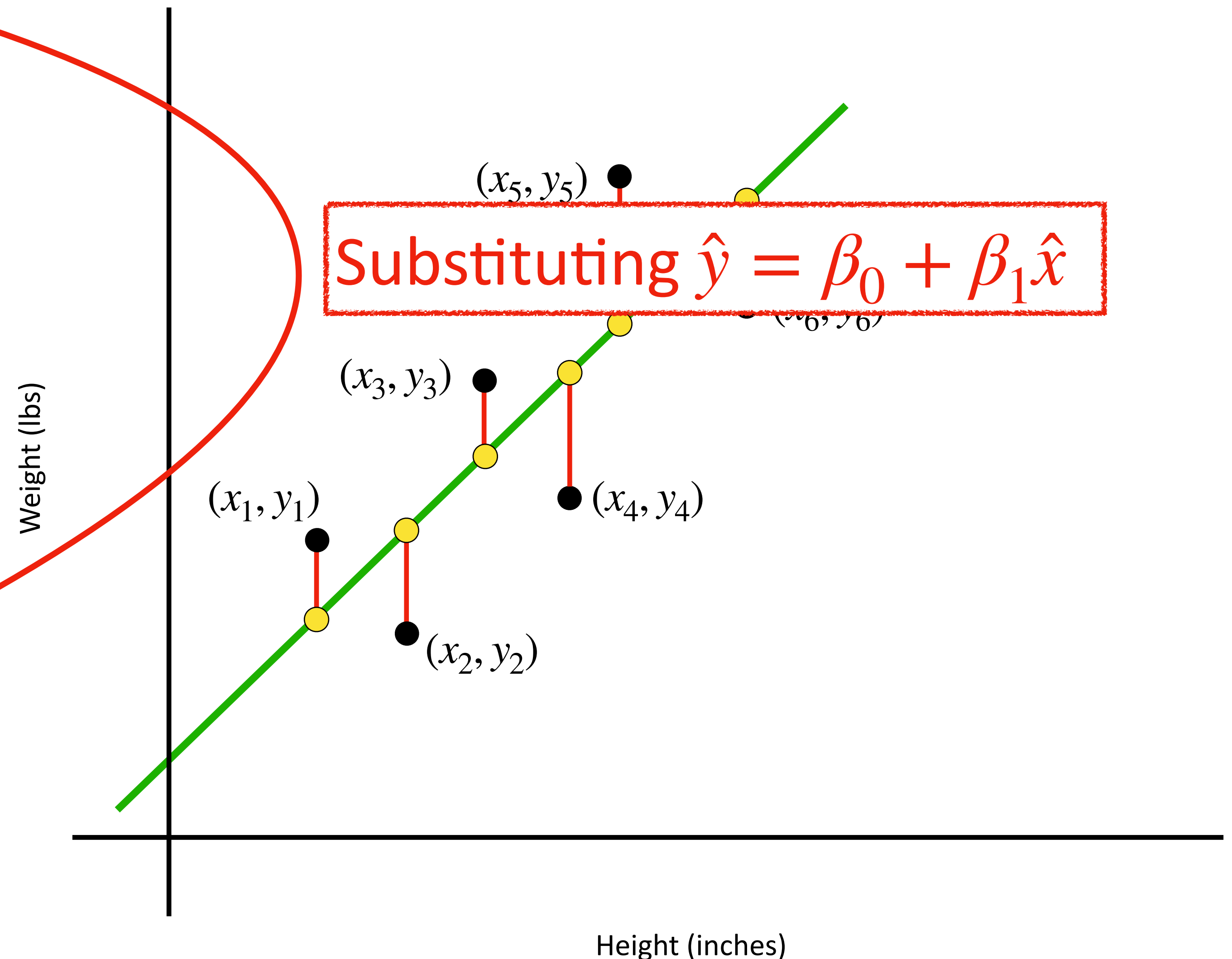
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$$\frac{(y_1 - \hat{y}_1)^2 + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2)^2 + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3)^2 + (y_4 - \hat{y}_4)^2 + (y_5 - \hat{y}_5)^2 + (y_6 - \hat{y}_6)^2}{n}$$

This is the **Mean Square Error (MSE)**

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 \hat{x}_i)^2$$

For every value of  $i$ ,  $\hat{x}_i$  equals  $x_i$



# Simple Linear Regression

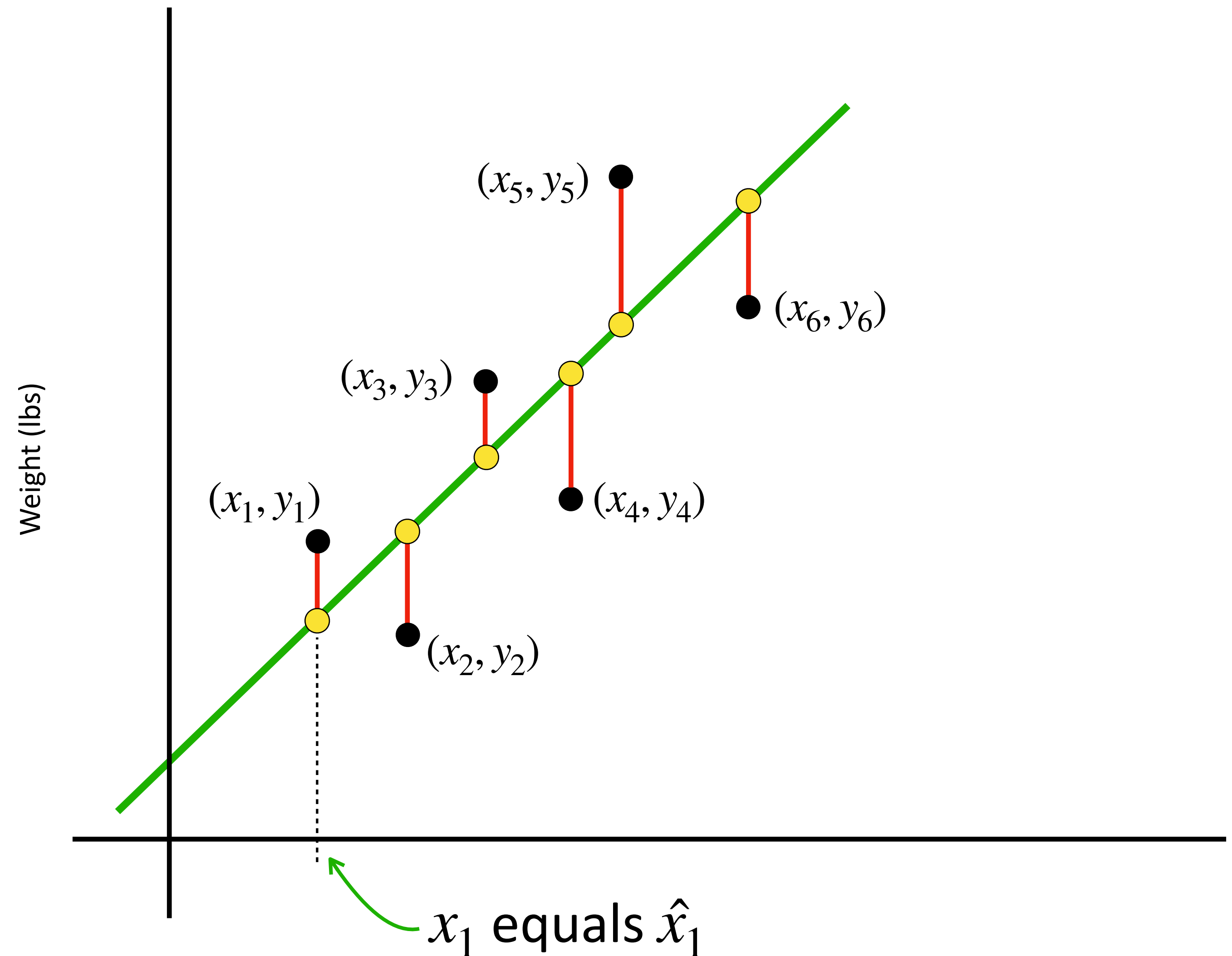
The line of best fit is  $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

$$\frac{(y_1 - \hat{y}_1)^2 + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2)^2 + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3)^2 + (y_4 - \hat{y}_4)^2 + (y_5 - \hat{y}_5)^2 + (y_6 - \hat{y}_6)^2}{n}$$

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# Simple Linear Regression

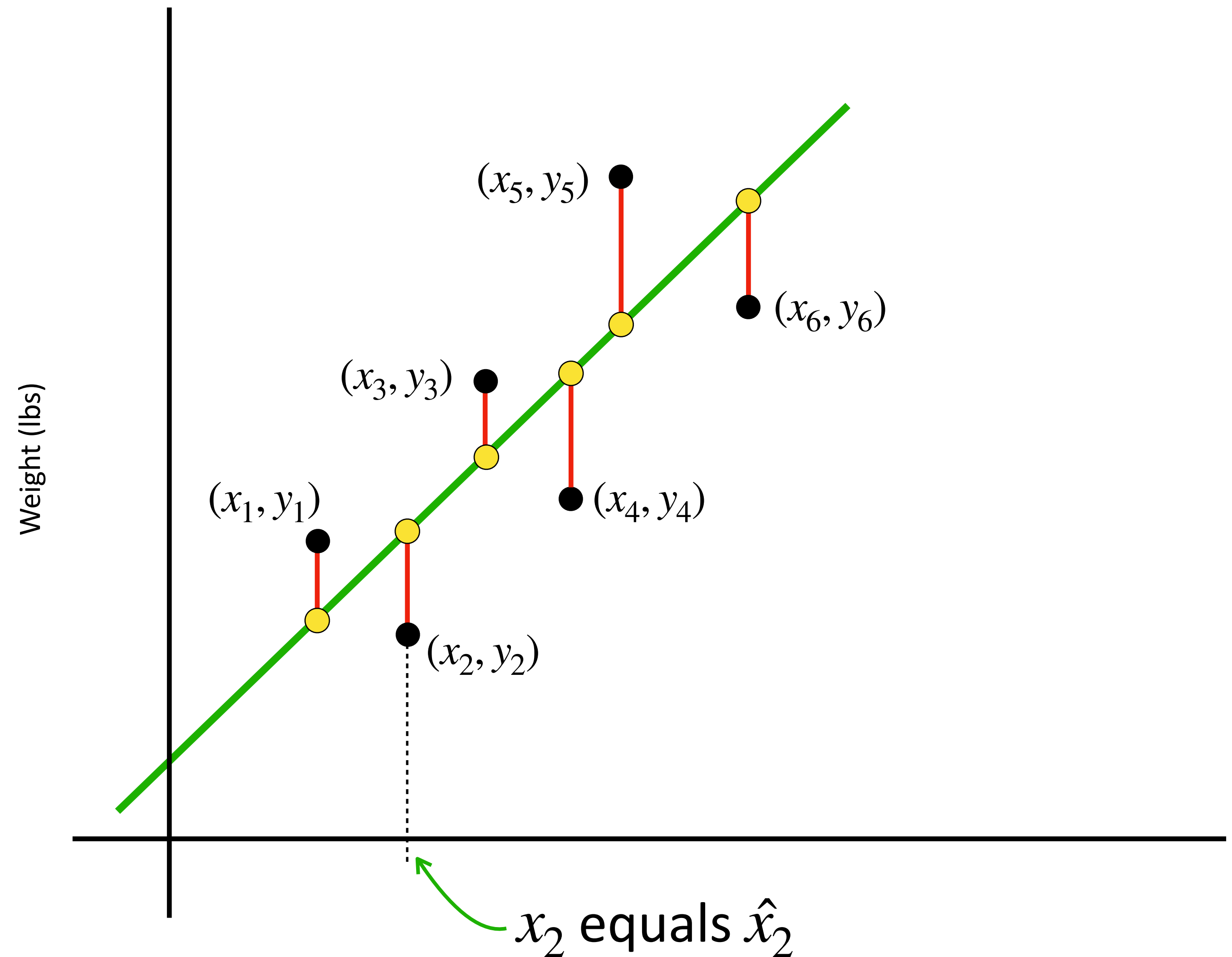
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For every value of  $i$ ,  $\hat{x}_i$  equals  $x_i$



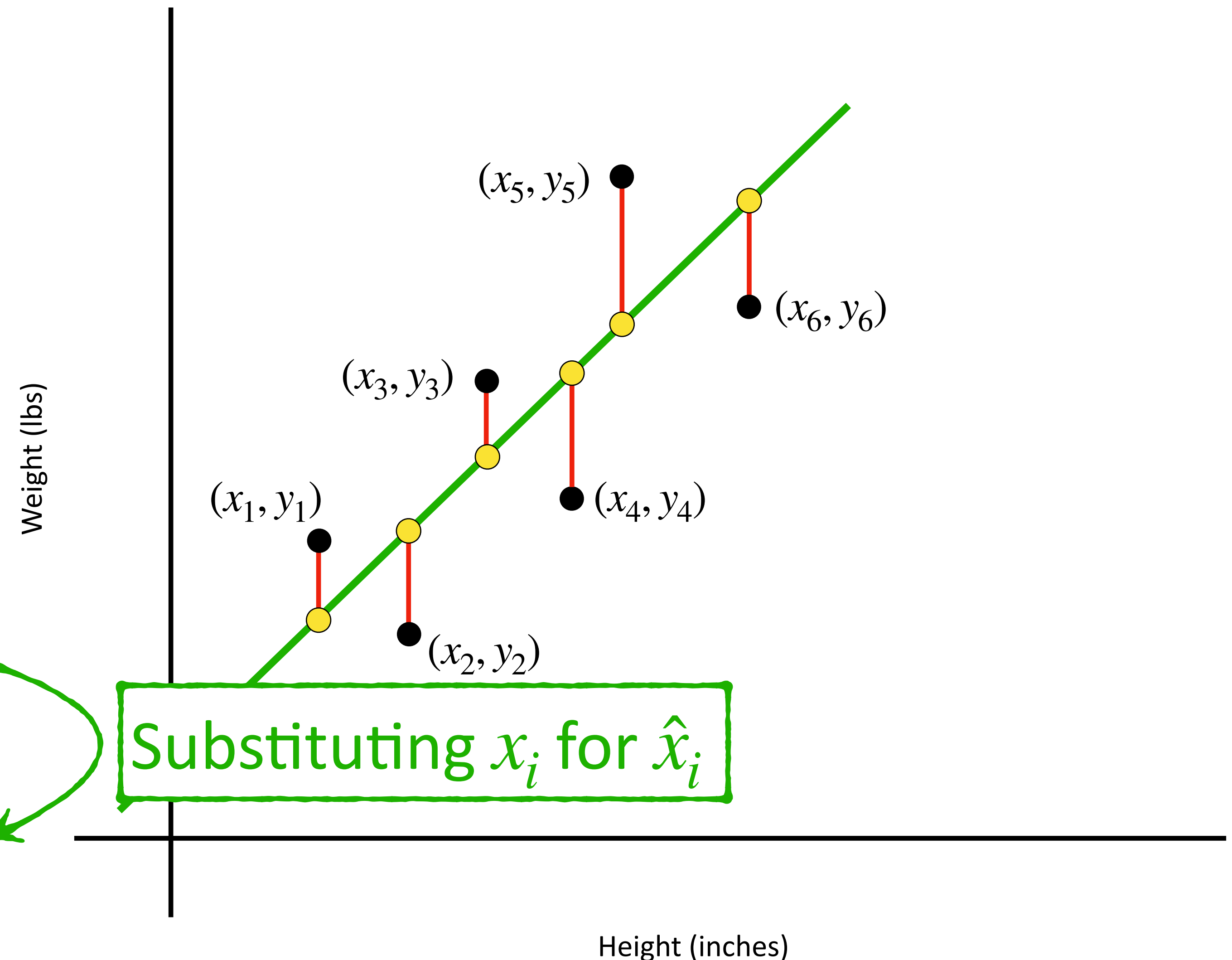
# Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is  $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

$$\frac{(y_1 - \hat{y}_1)^2 + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2)^2 + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3)^2 + (y_4 - \hat{y}_4)^2 + (y_5 - \hat{y}_5)^2 + (y_6 - \hat{y}_6)^2}{n}$$

This is the **Mean Square Error (MSE)**

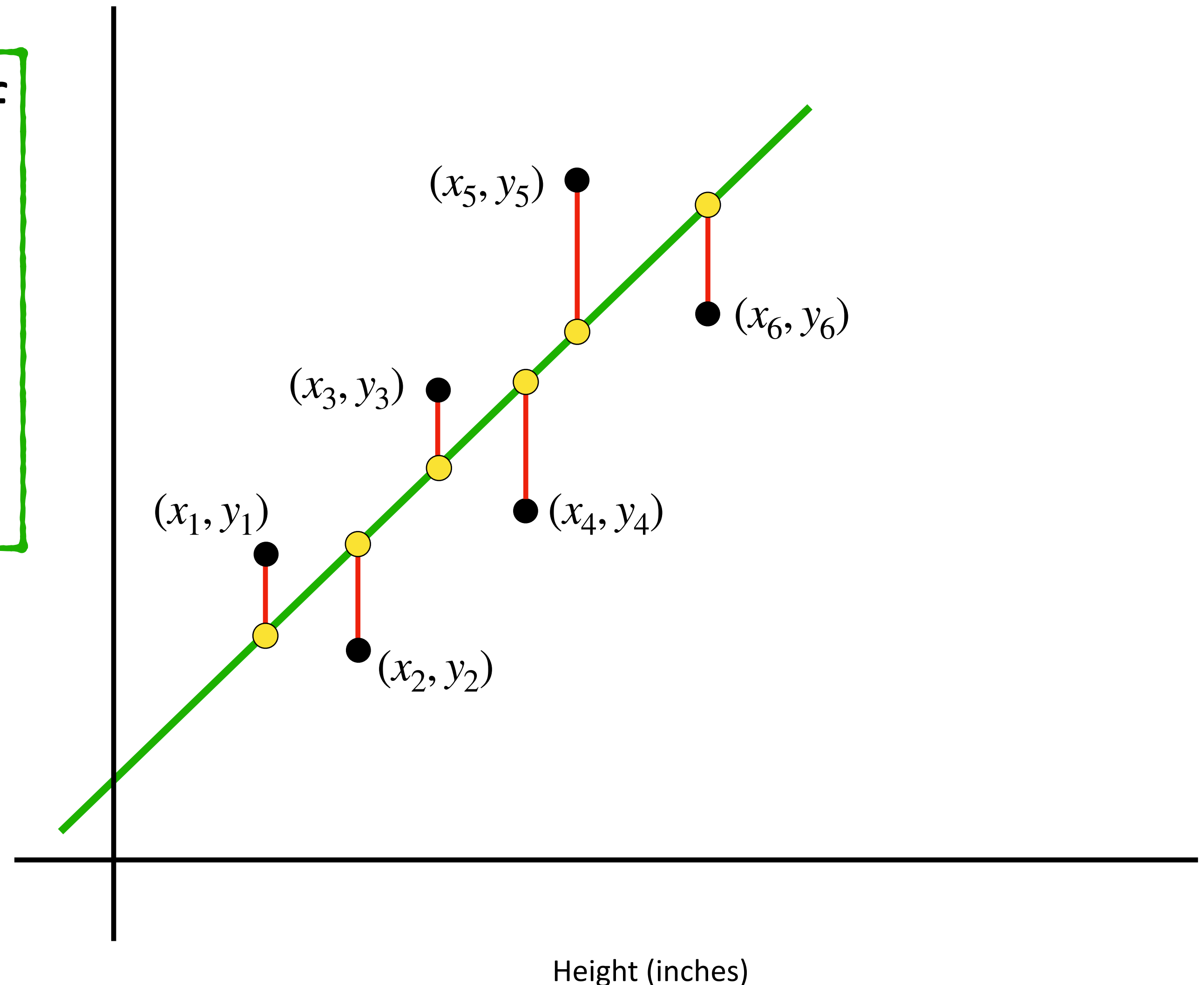
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 \hat{x}_i)^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_i)^2 \end{aligned}$$



# Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is  $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$

**Problem Statement:** Given a set of data points in  $\mathbf{R}^2$ ,  $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), (x_3, y_3) \dots (x_n, y_n)$ , find the line that minimizes the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)**

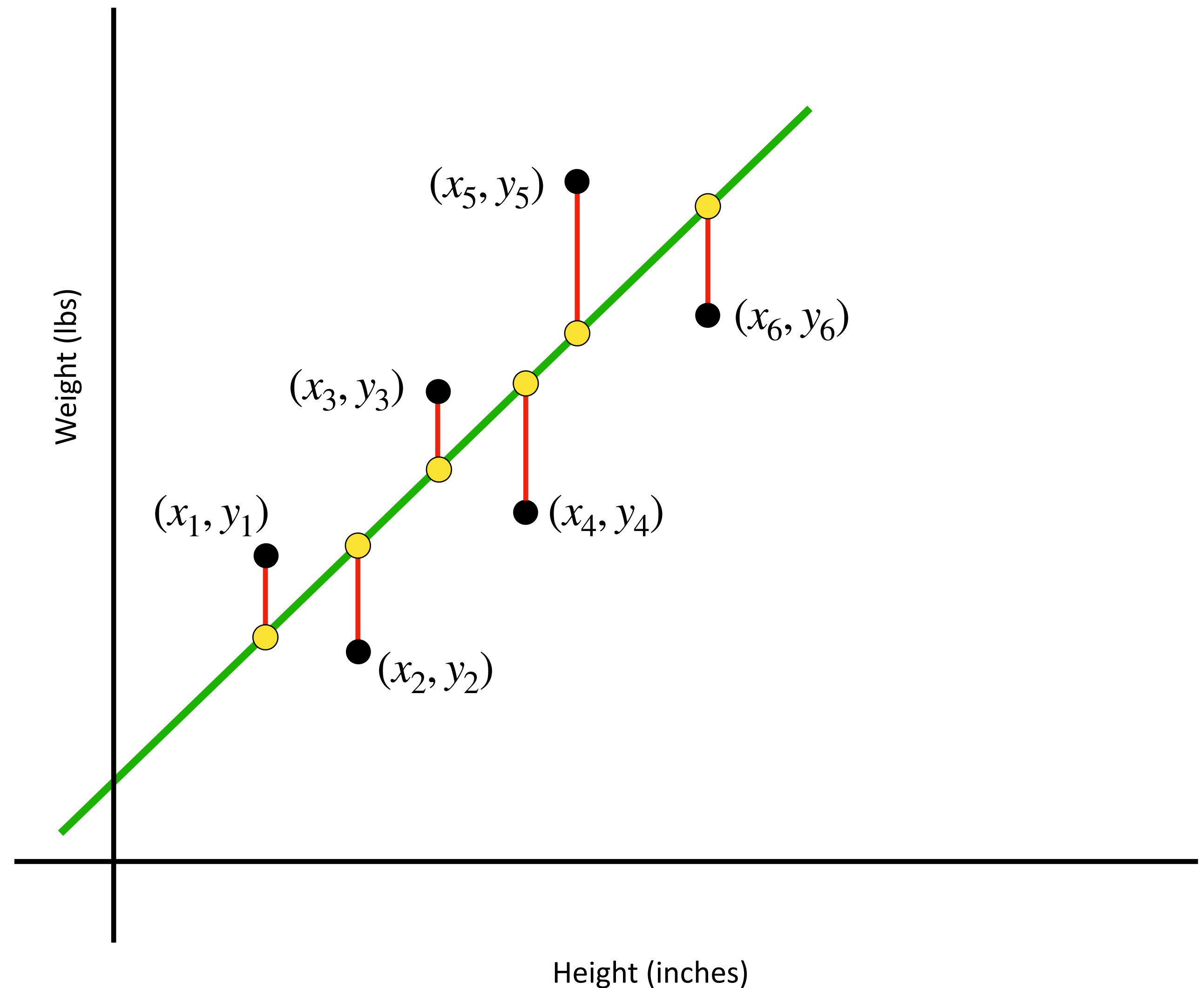


# Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is  $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$

This is the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)**

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_i)^2$$



# Simple Linear Regression

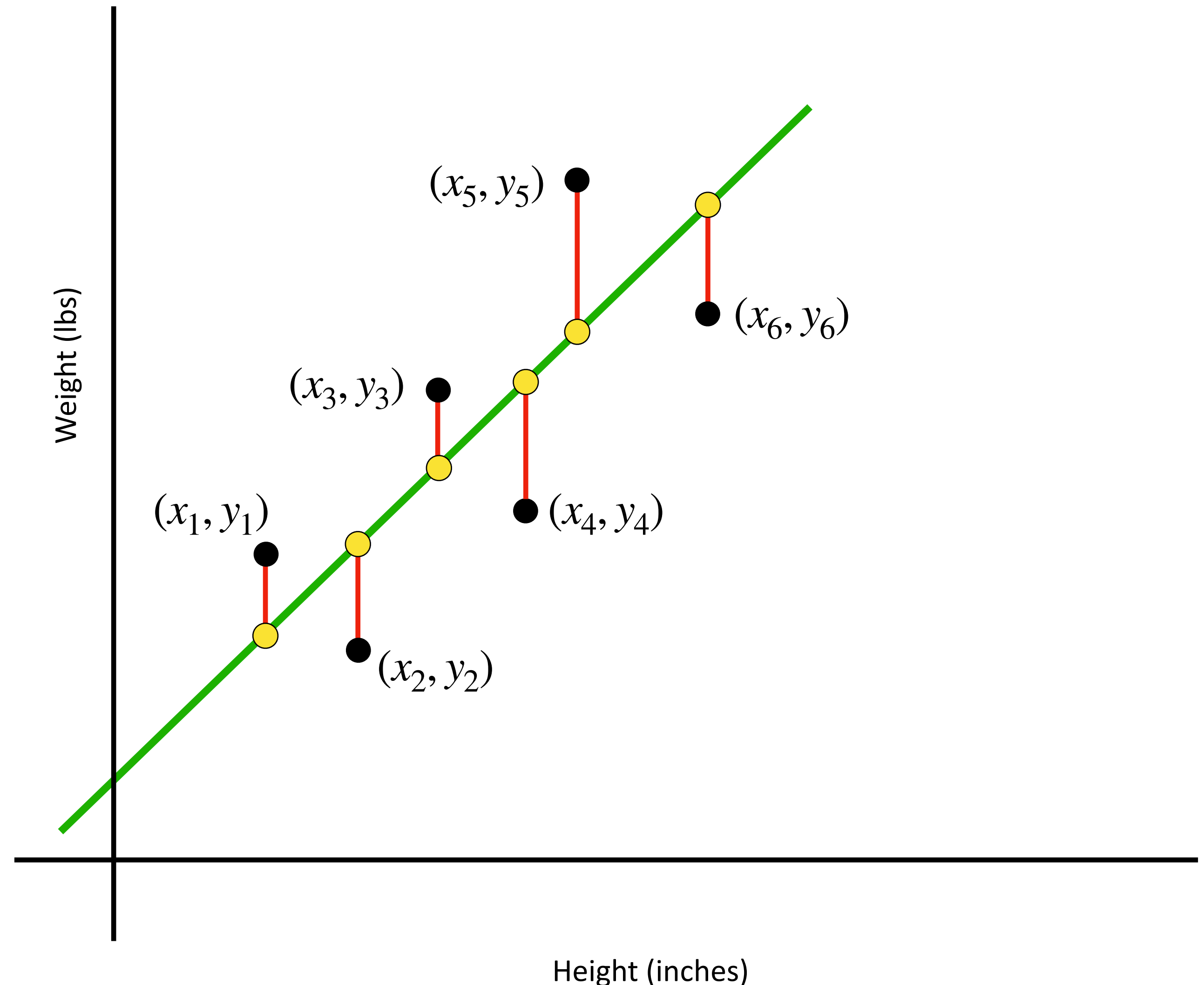
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**The Problem Statement:**

**Simple Linear Regression:** Find the values of  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  such that the Mean Squared Error (MSE) is minimized.



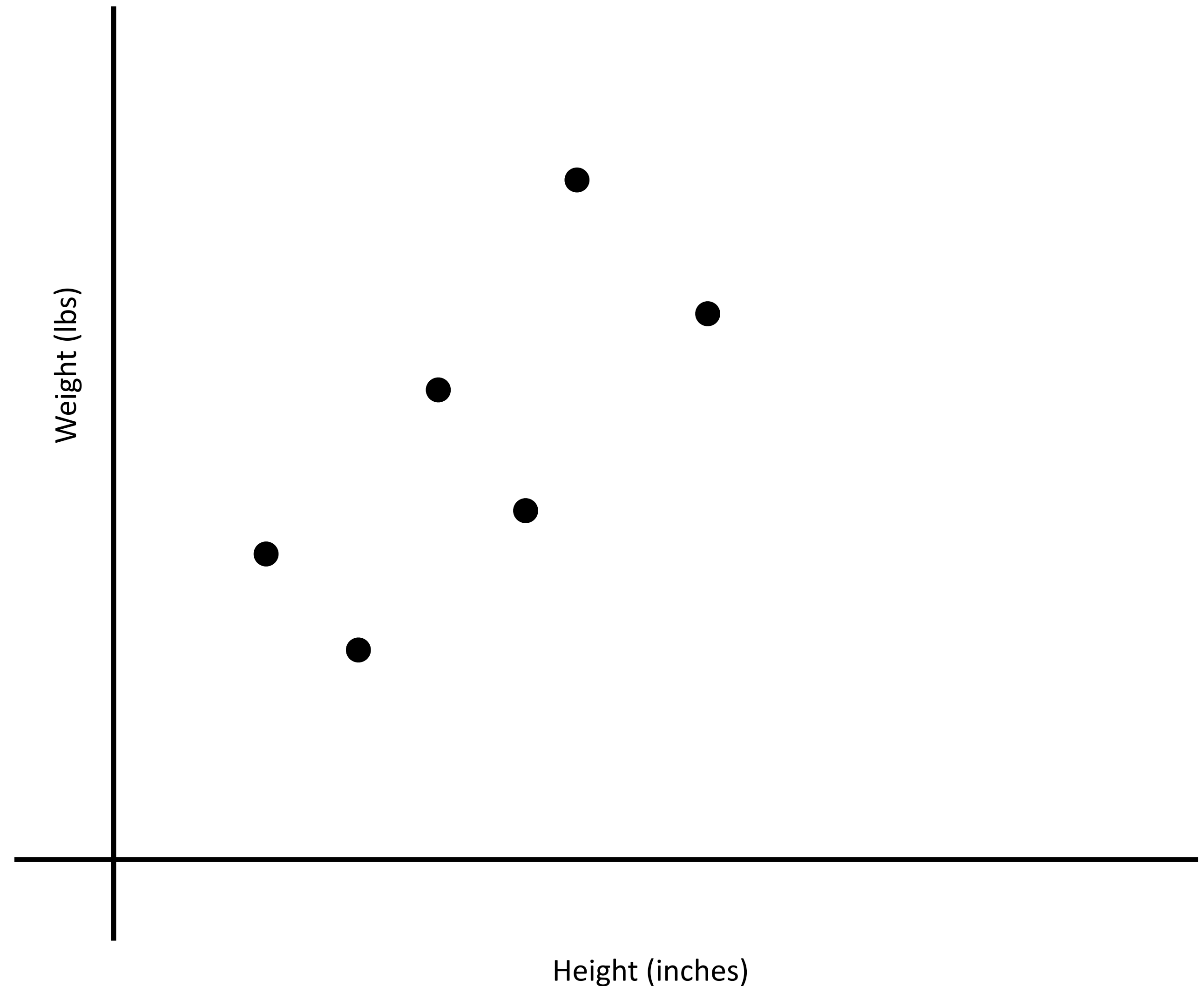
Lets calculate the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** for various values of  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_i)^2$$

**The Problem Statement:**

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# Simple Linear Regression



Lets calculate the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** for various values of  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$

# Simple Linear Regression

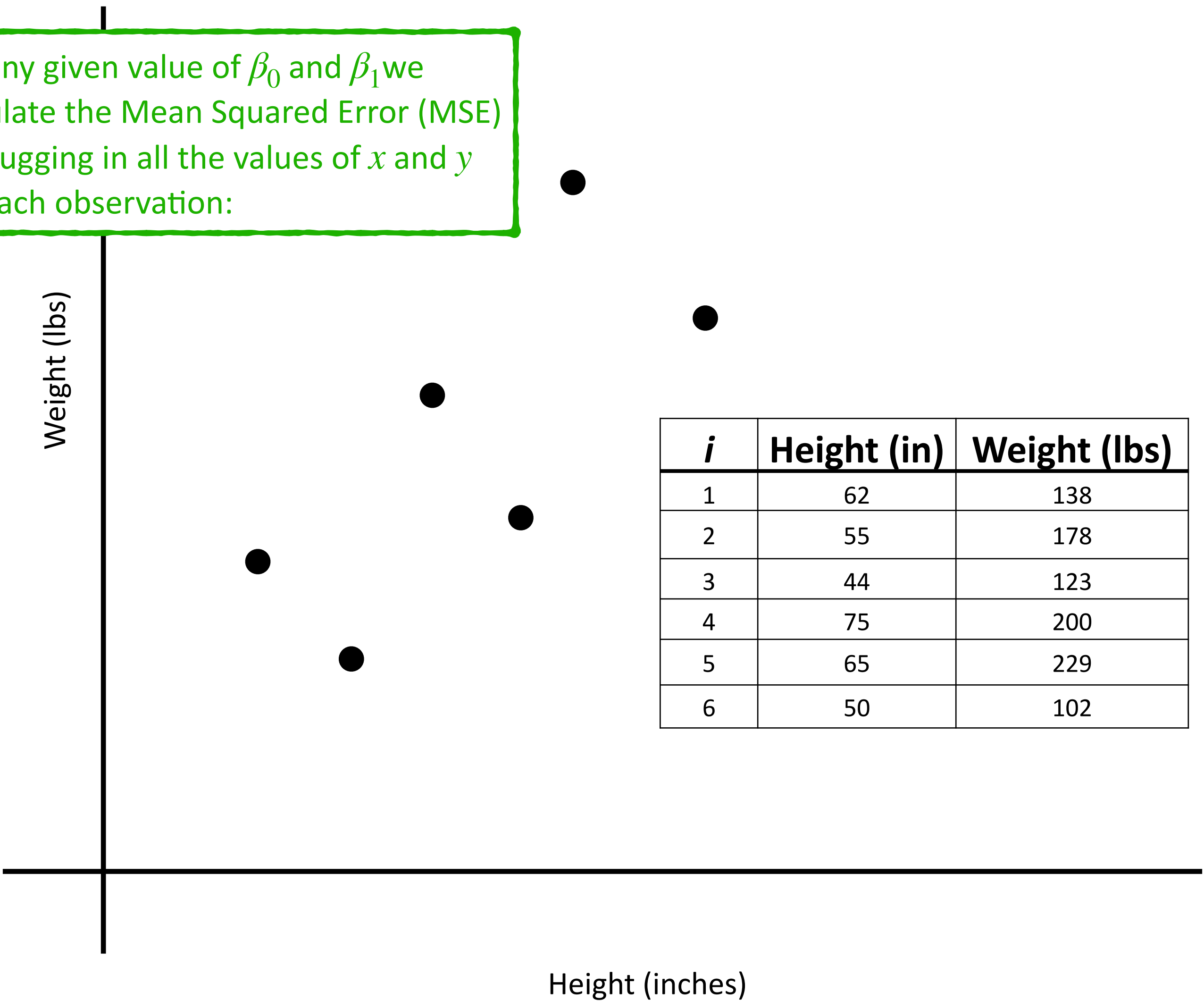
$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_i)^2$$

For any given value of  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  we calculate the Mean Squared Error (MSE) by plugging in all the values of  $x$  and  $y$  for each observation:

$$\frac{(62 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 138)^2 + (55 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 178)^2 + (44 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 123)^2 + (75 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 200)^2 + (65 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 229)^2 + (50 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 102)^2}{6}$$

## The Problem Statement:

**Simple Linear Regression:** Find the values of  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  such that the Mean Squared Error (MSE) is minimized.



Lets calculate the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** for various values of  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$

# Simple Linear Regression

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_i)^2$$

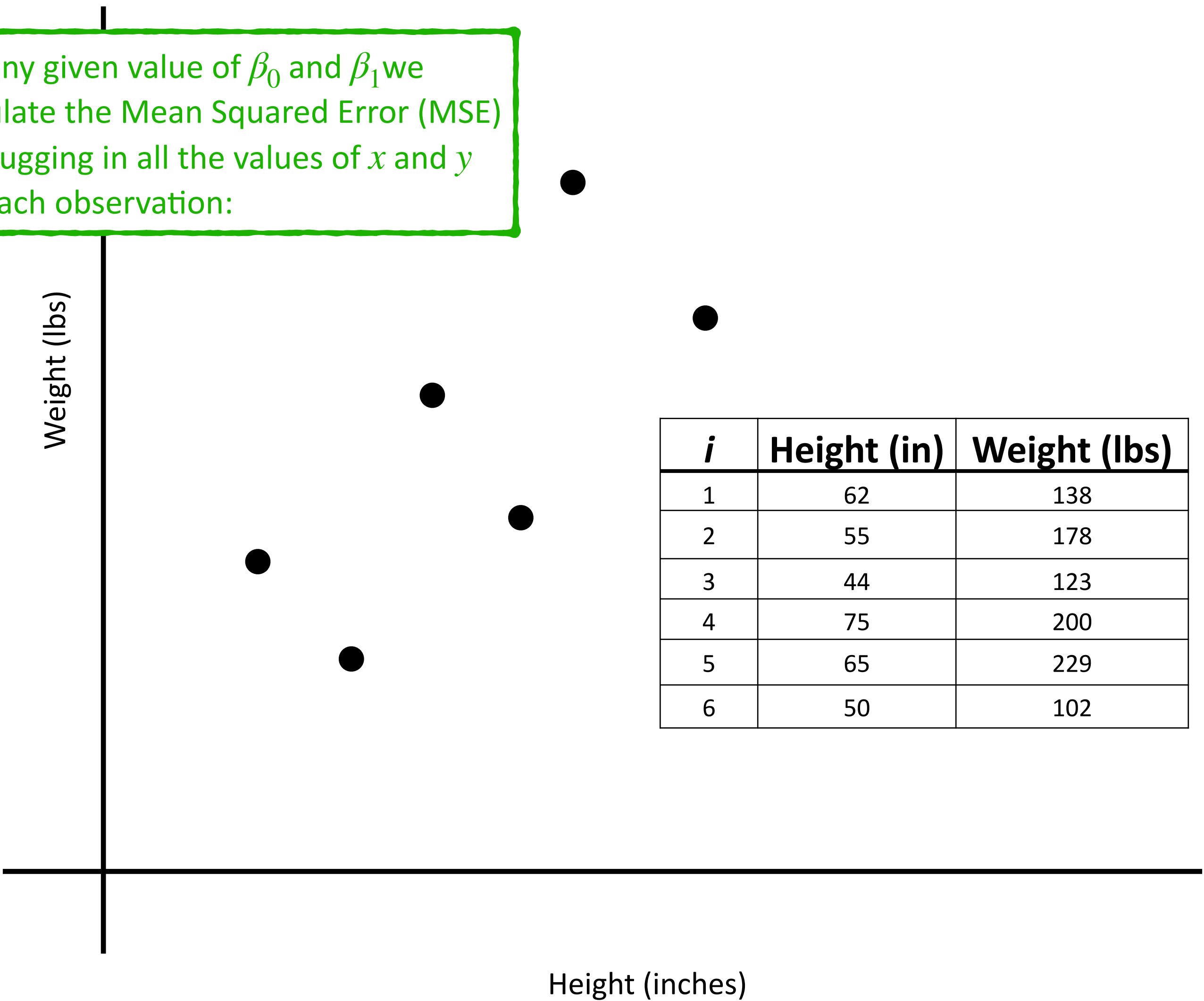
For any given value of  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  we calculate the Mean Squared Error (MSE) by plugging in all the values of  $x$  and  $y$  for each observation:

For example: If  $\beta_0 = 3$  and  $\beta_1 = -0.1$  then MSE = 430

$$\frac{(62 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 138)^2 + (55 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 178)^2 + (44 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 123)^2 + (75 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 200)^2 + (65 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 229)^2 + (50 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 102)^2}{6}$$

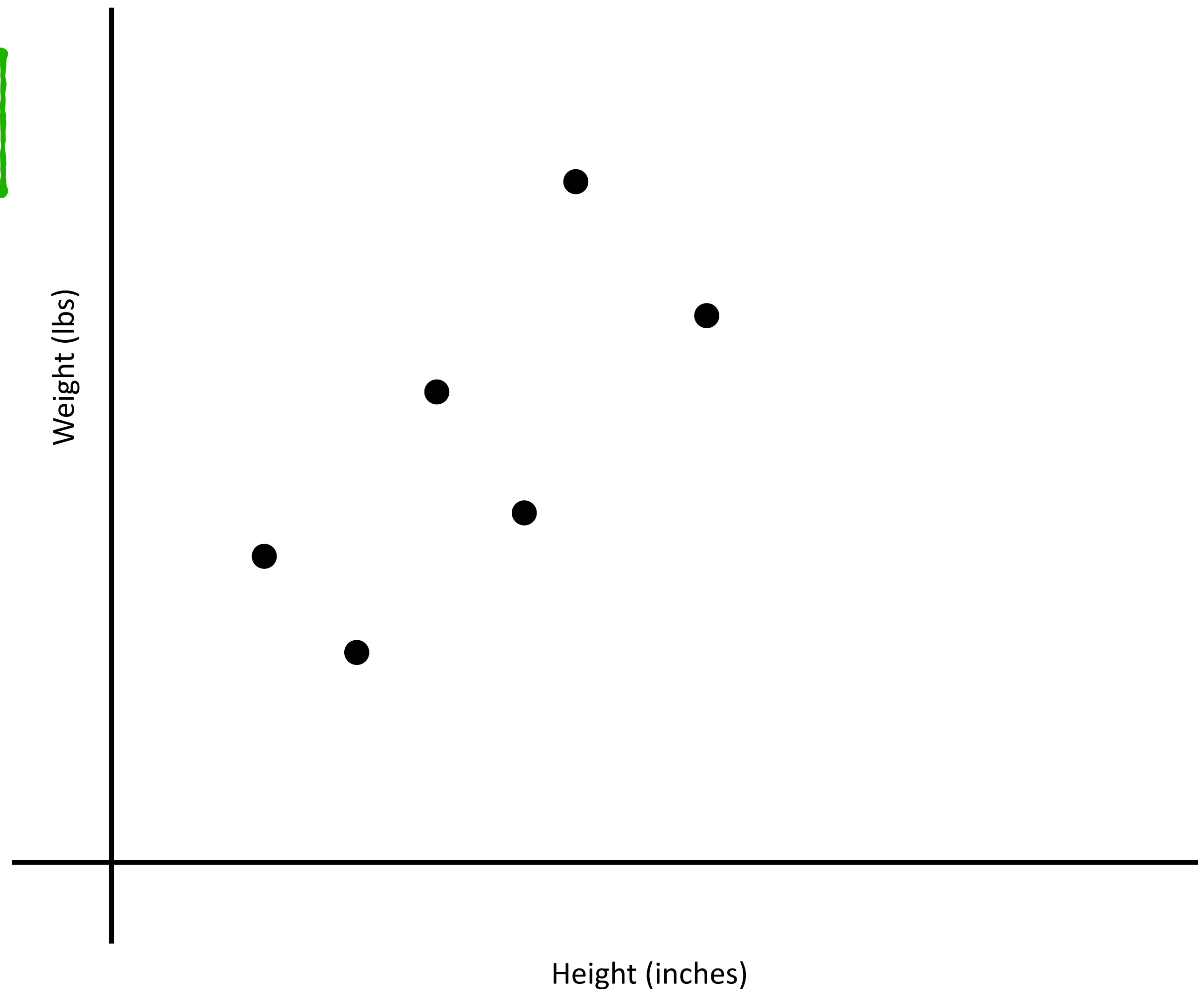
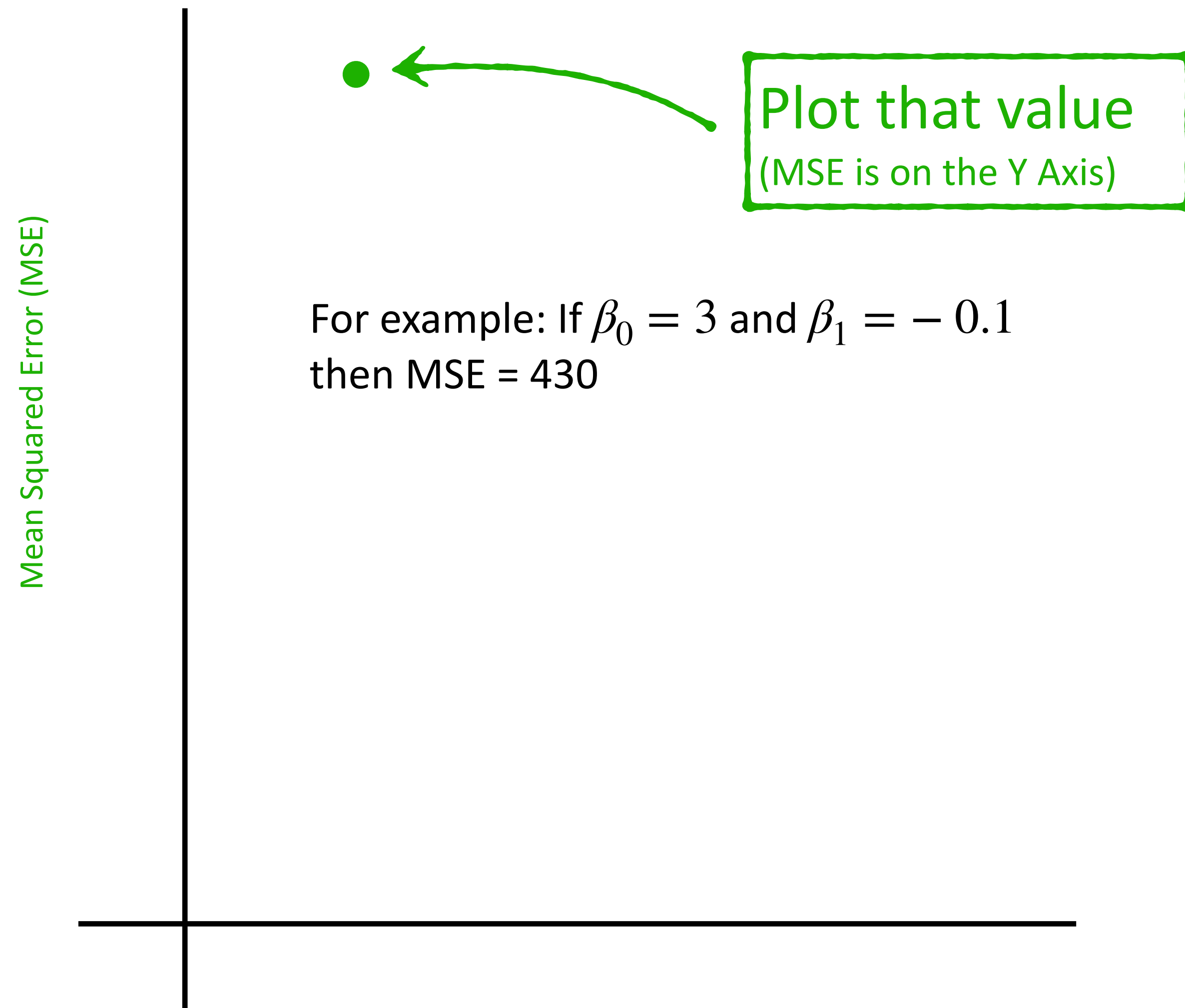
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**Simple Linear Regression:** Find the values of  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  such that the Mean Squared Error (MSE) is minimized.



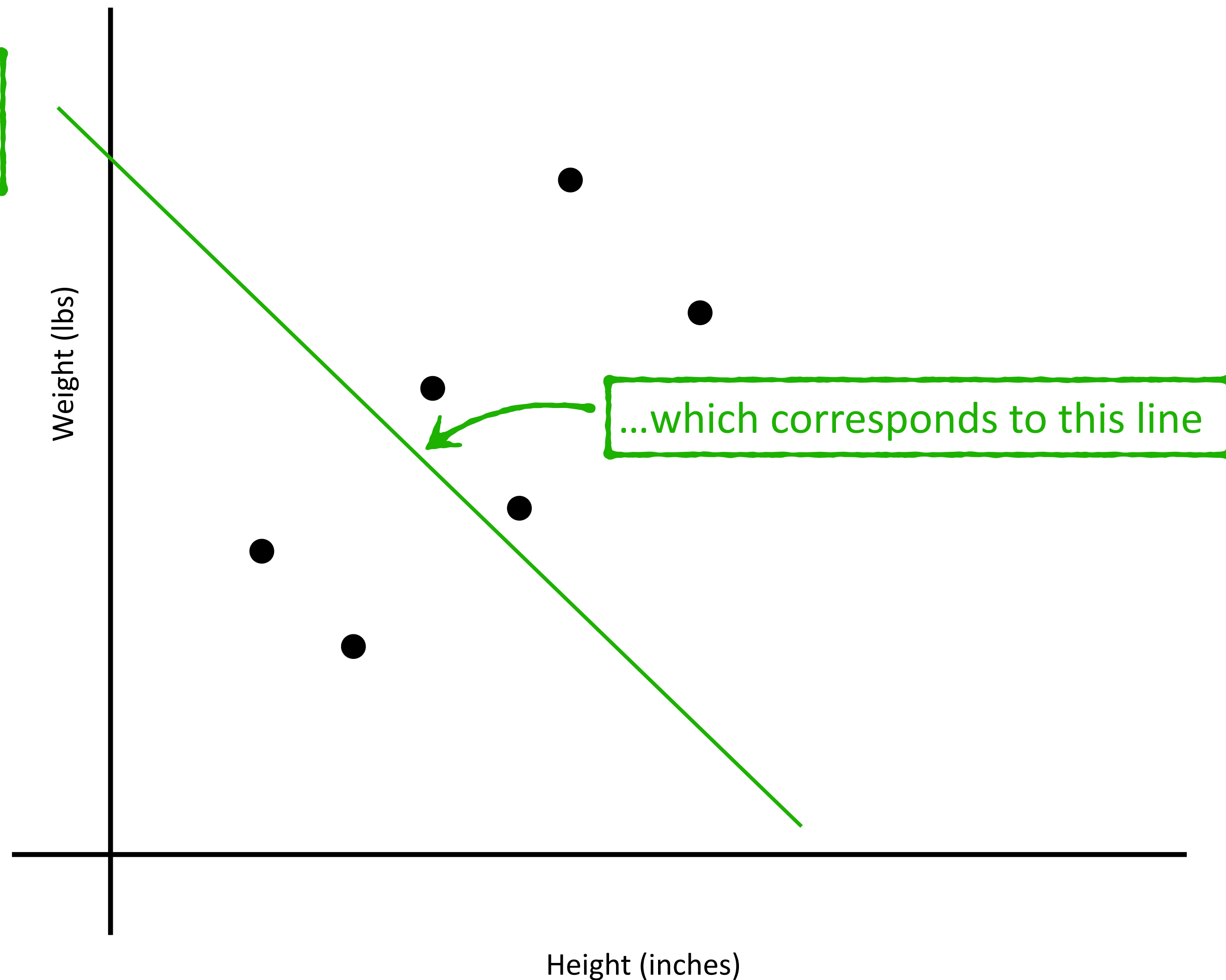
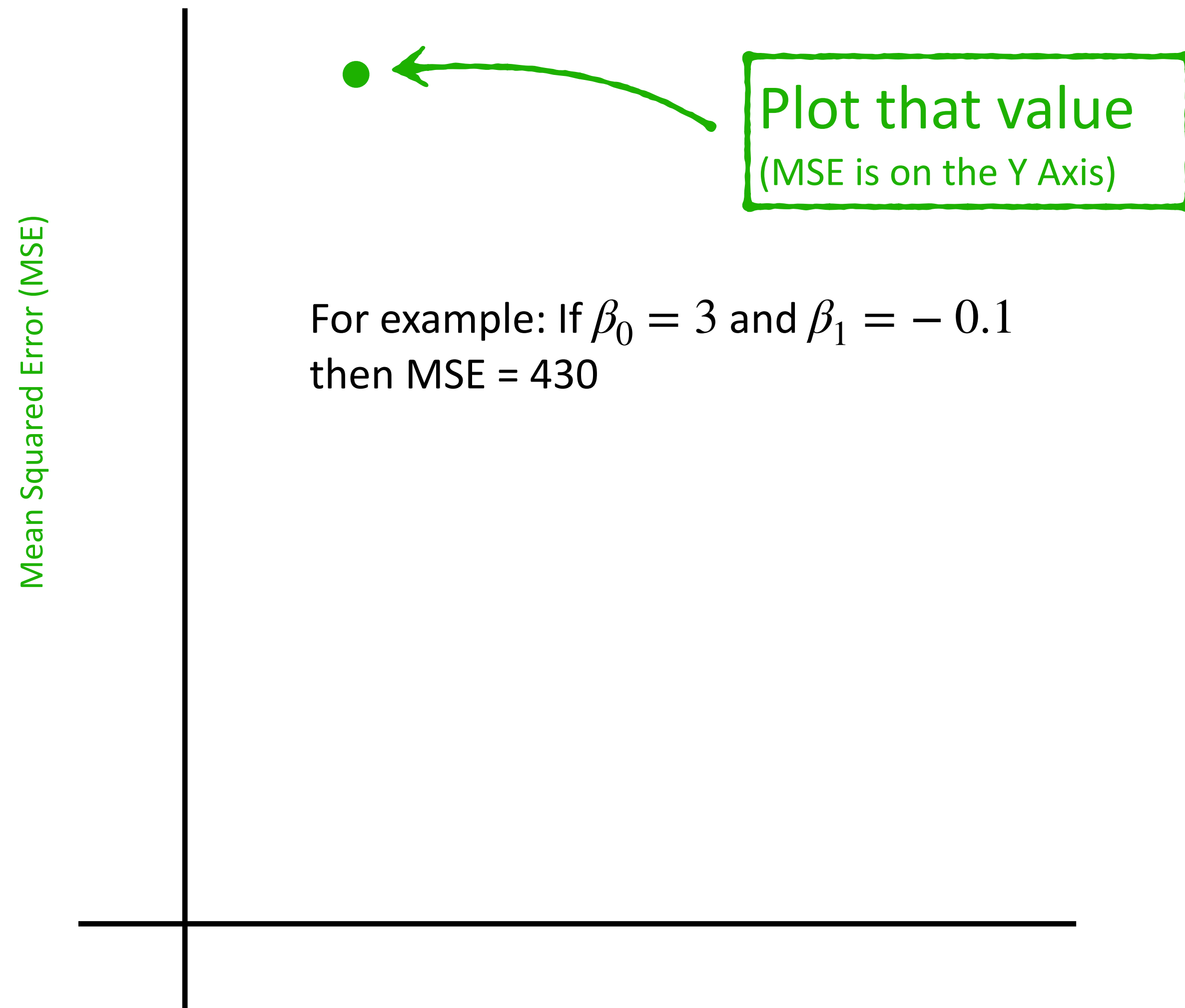
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# Simple Linear Regression



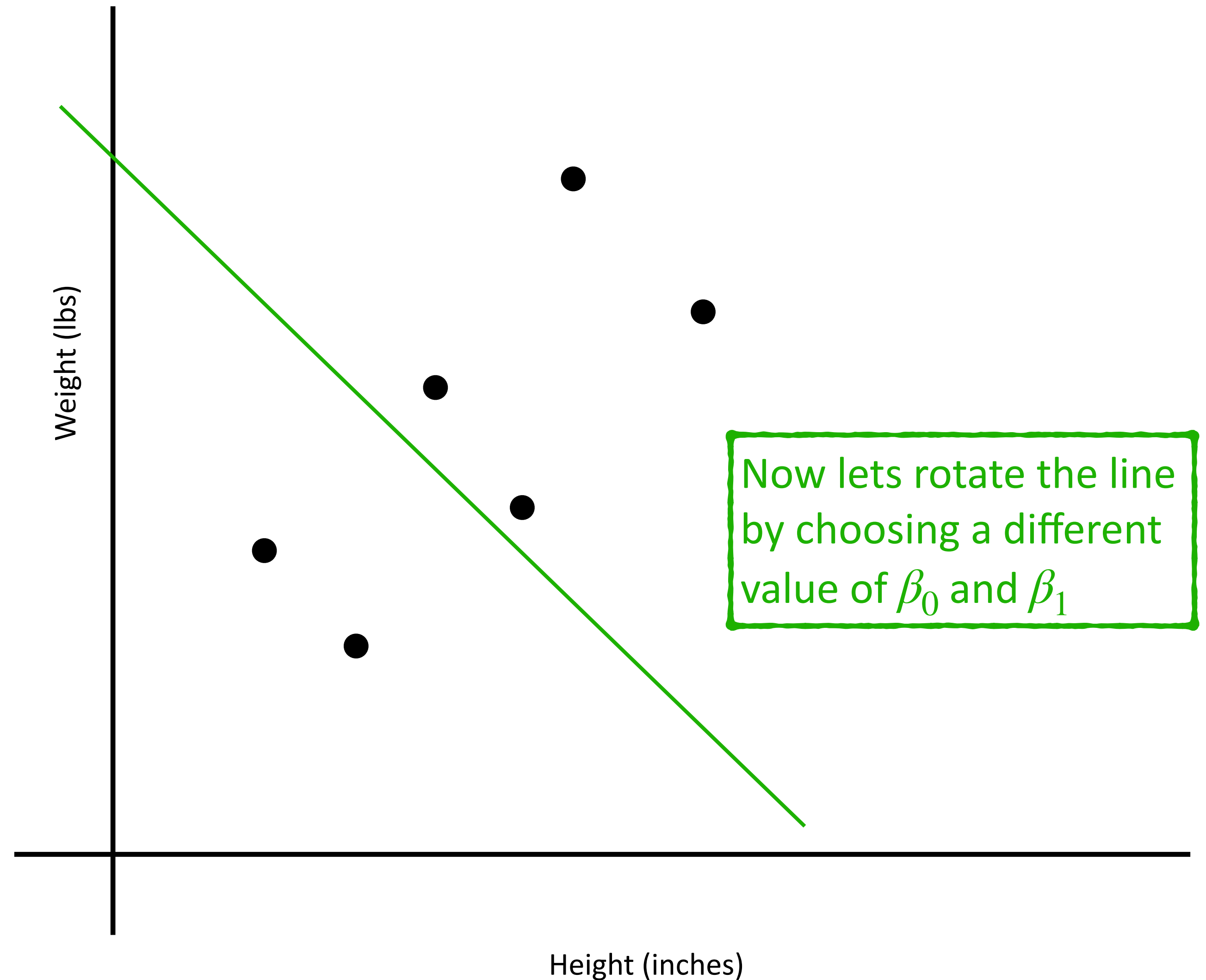
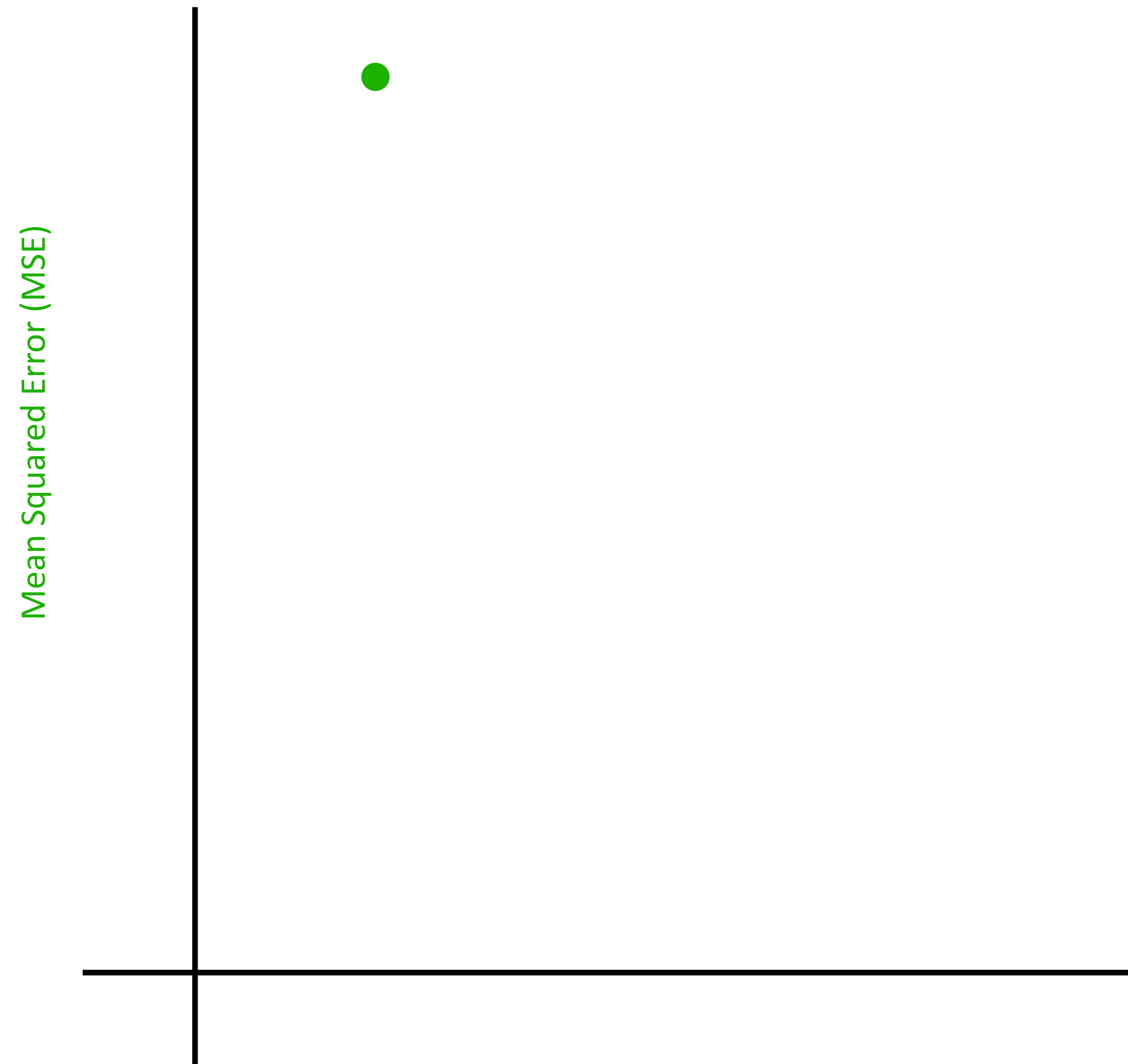
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# Simple Linear Regression



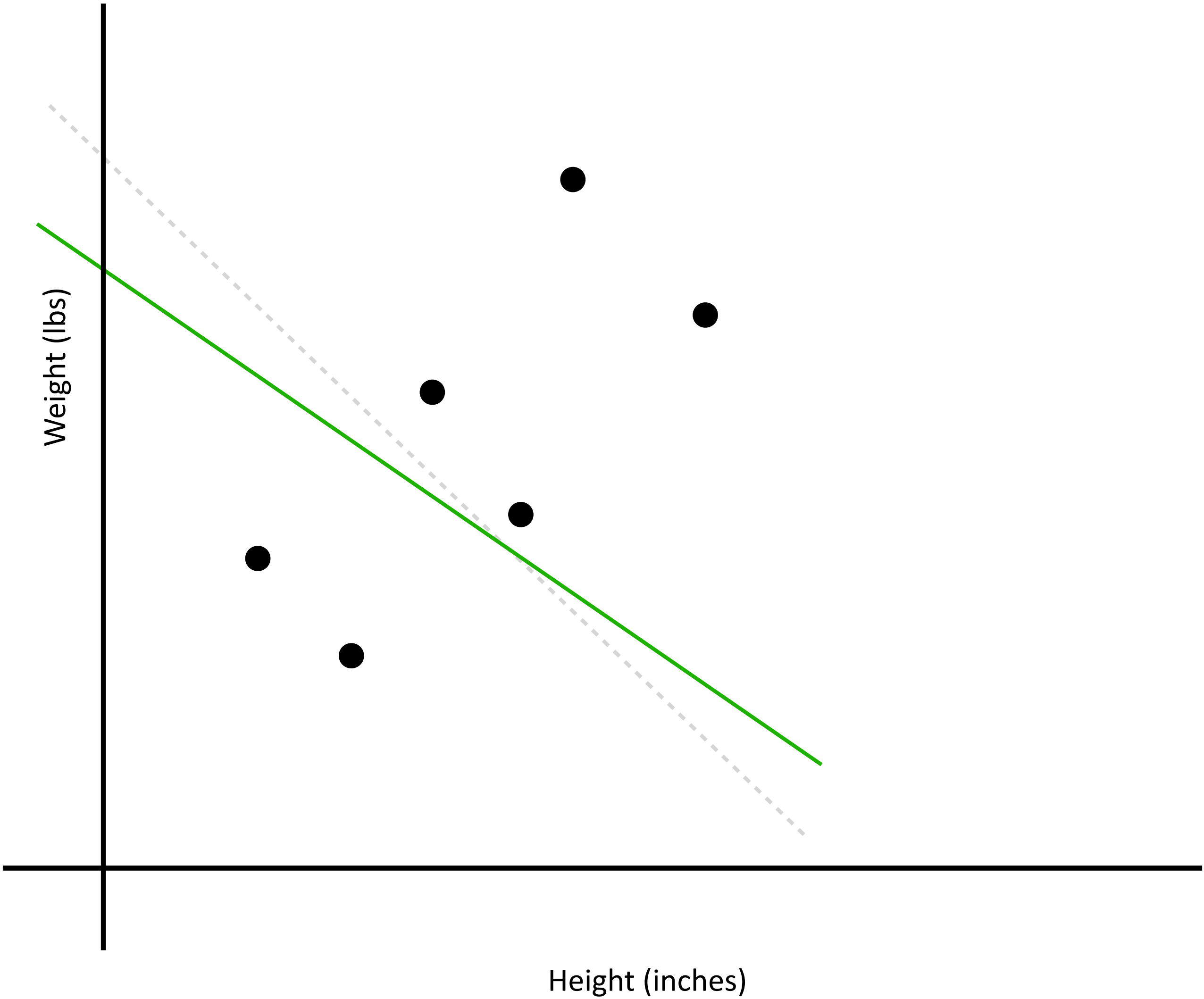
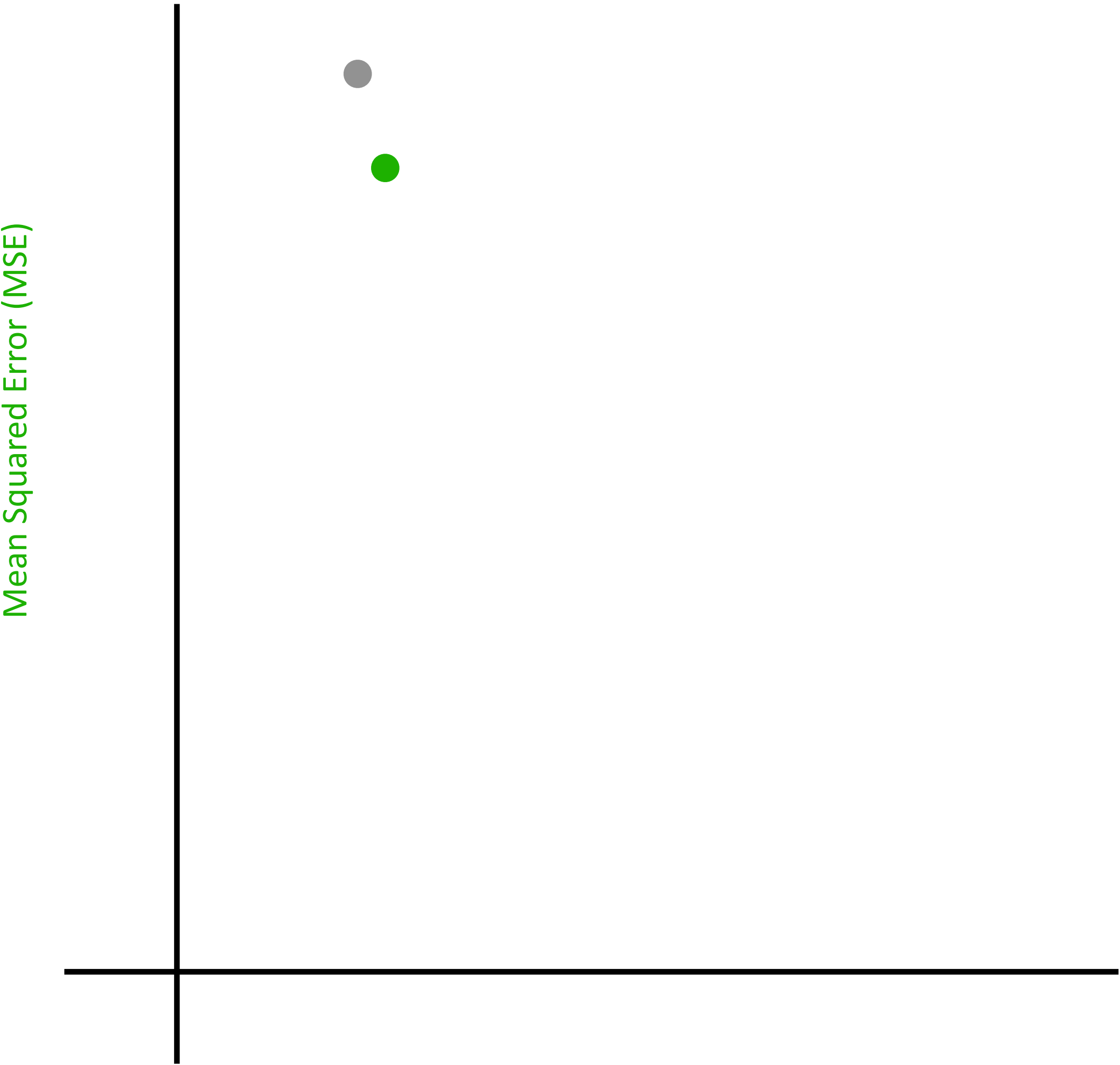
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# Simple Linear Regression



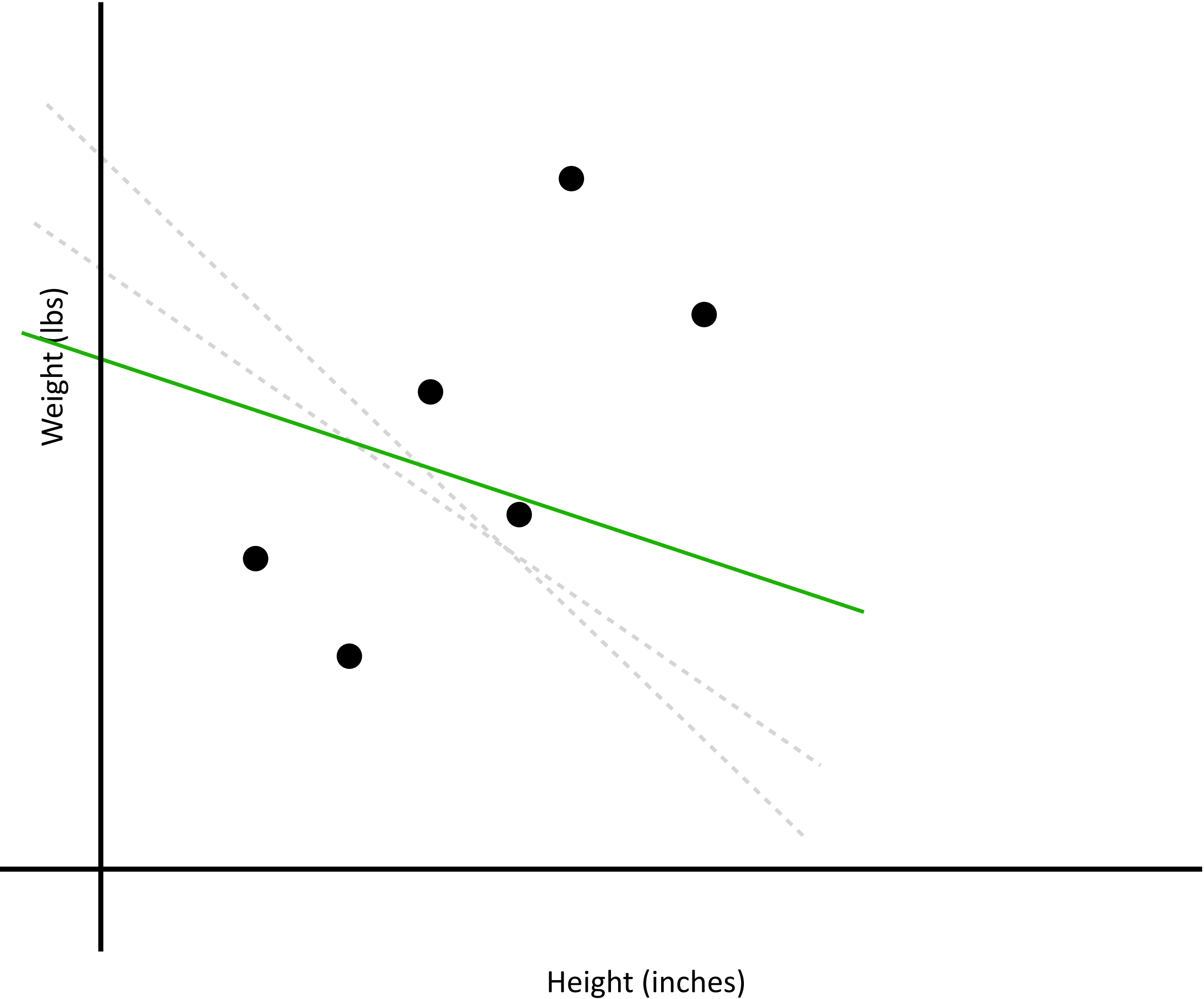
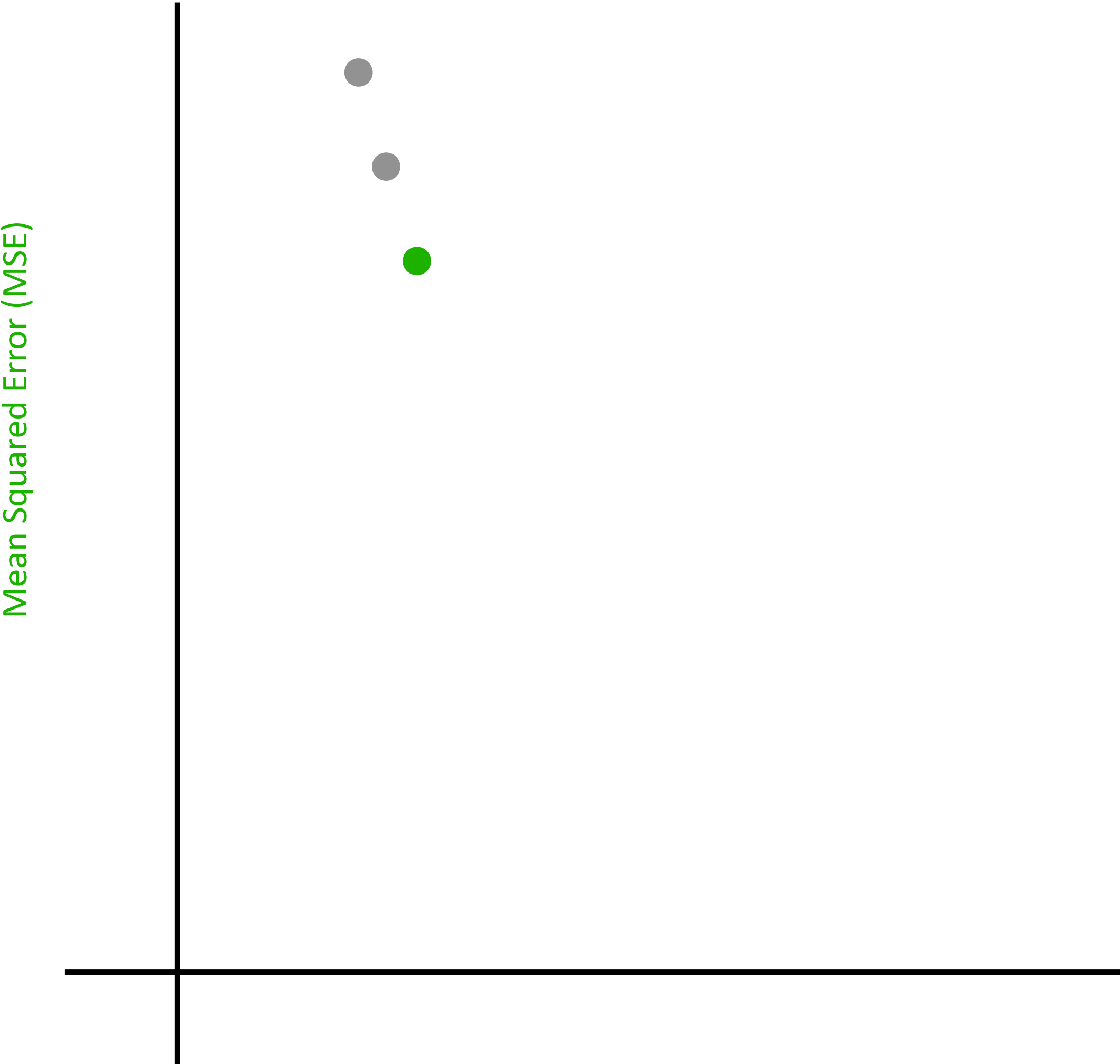
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# Simple Linear Regression



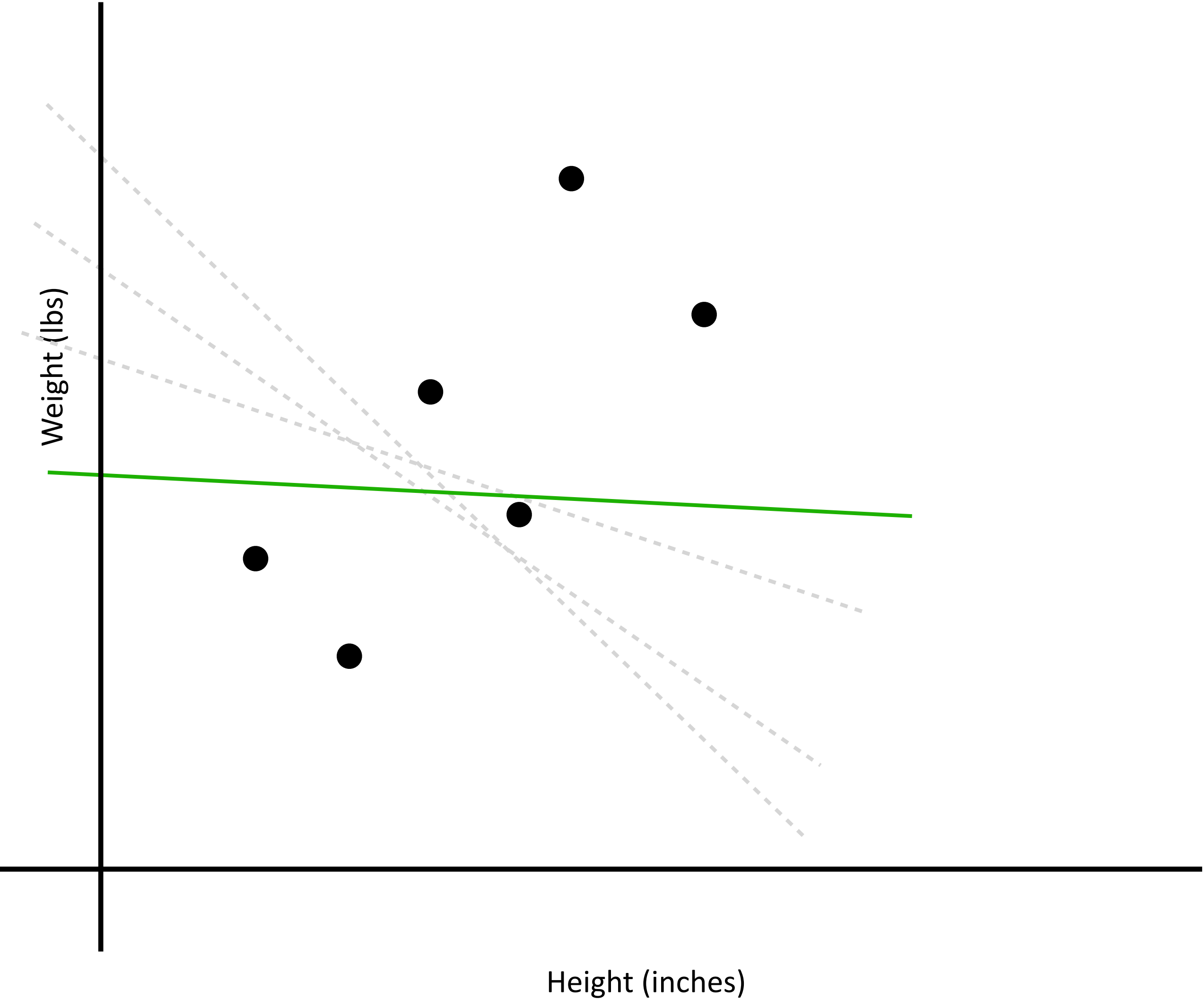
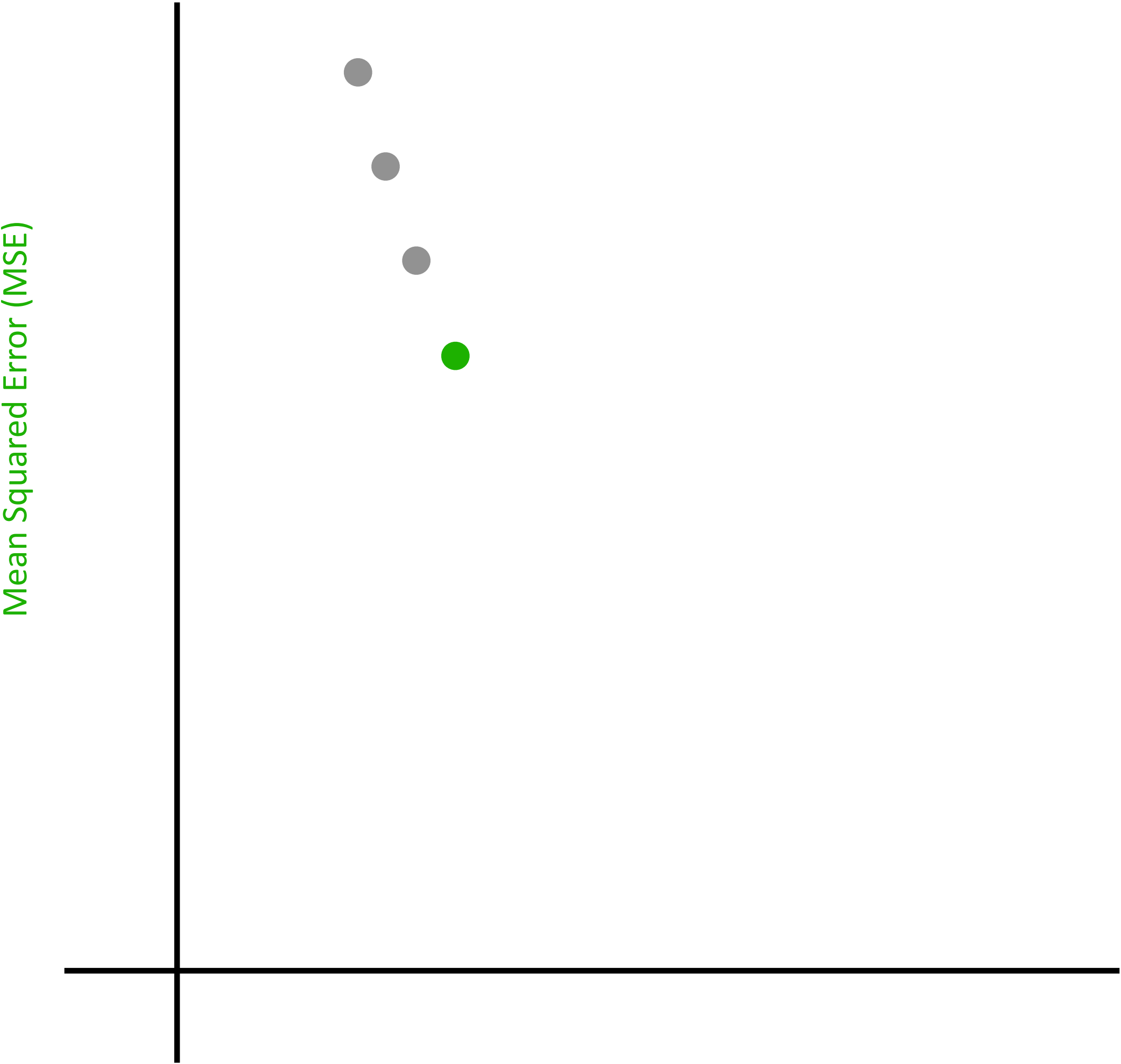
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# Simple Linear Regression



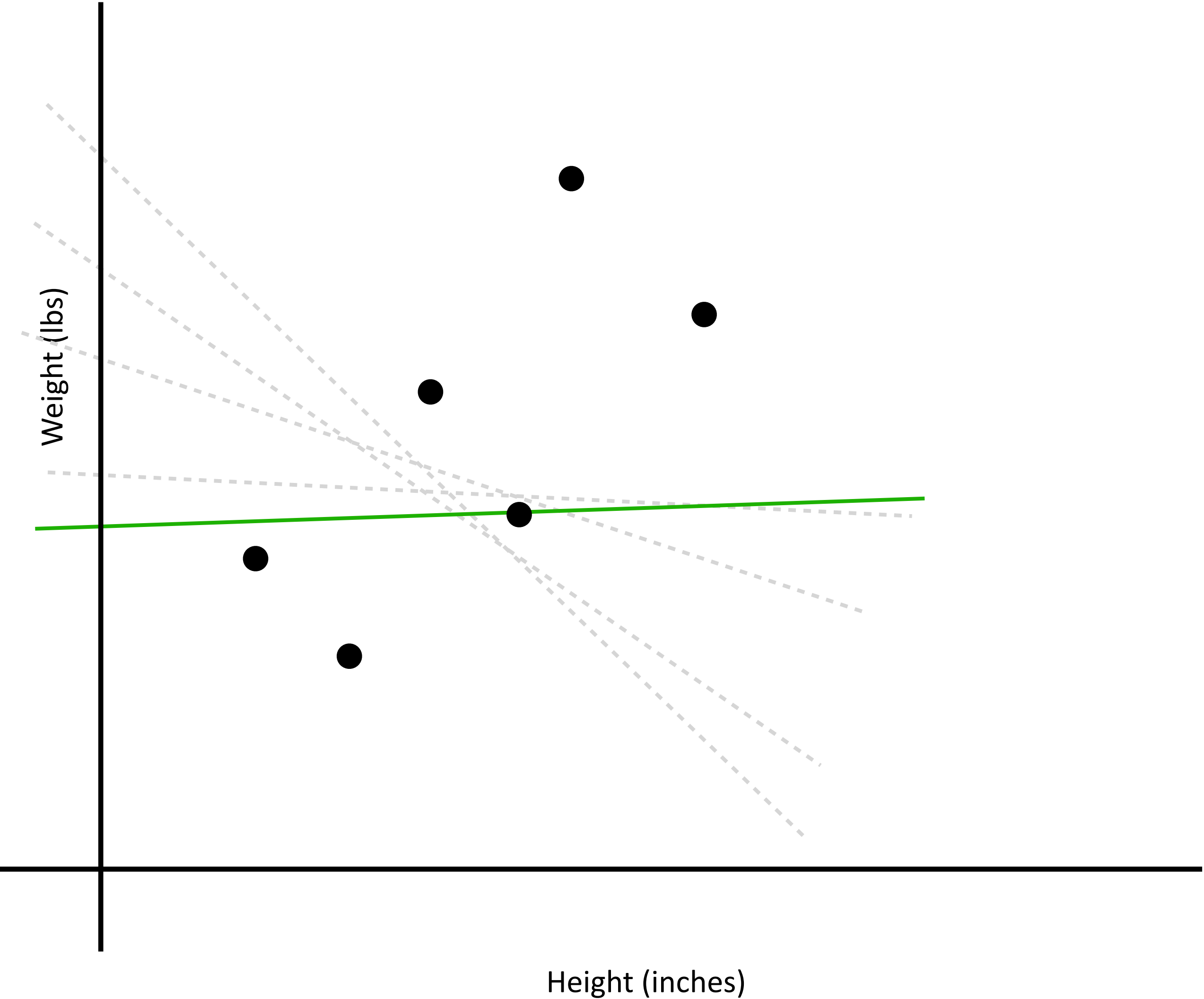
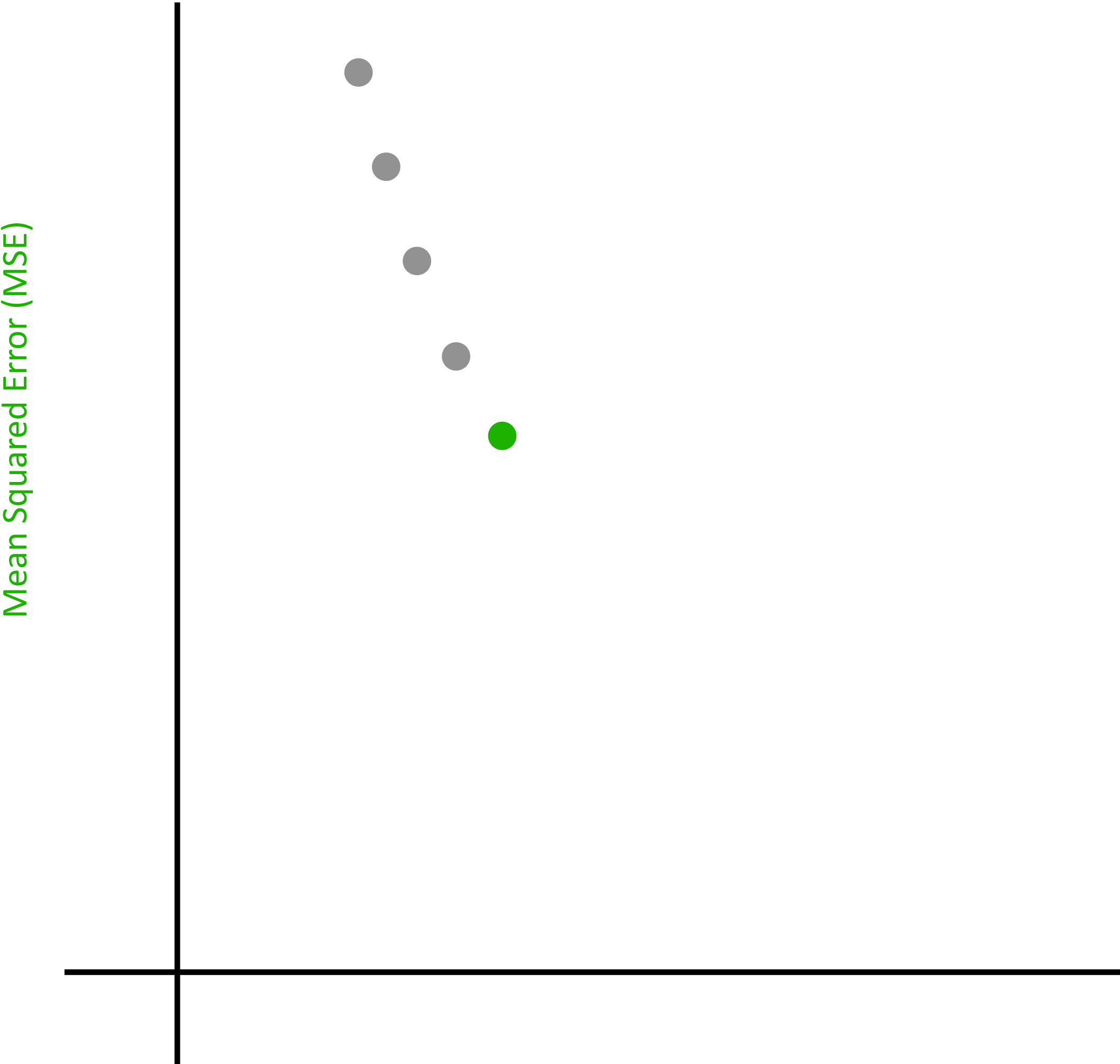
Lets calculate the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** for various values of  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$

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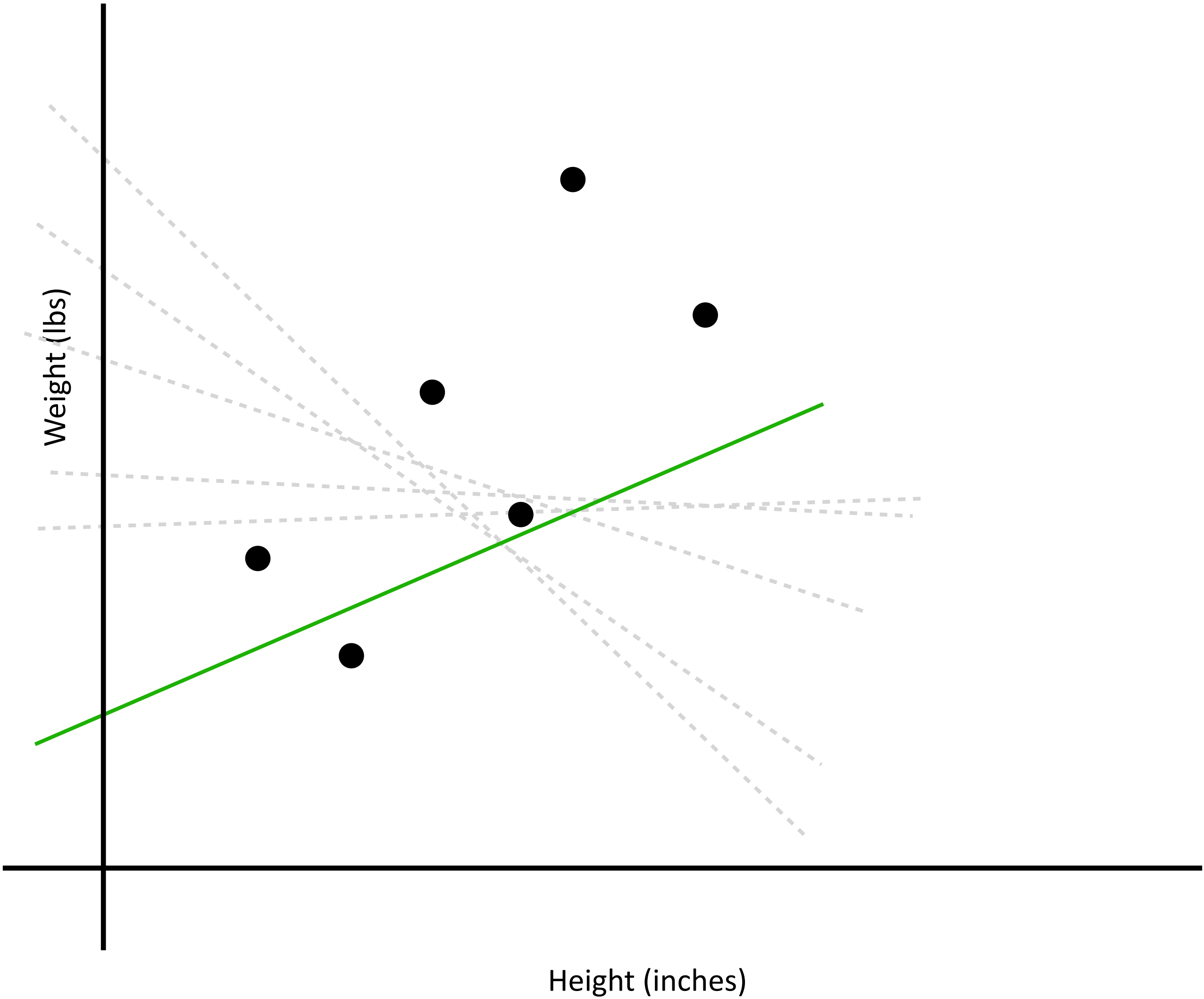
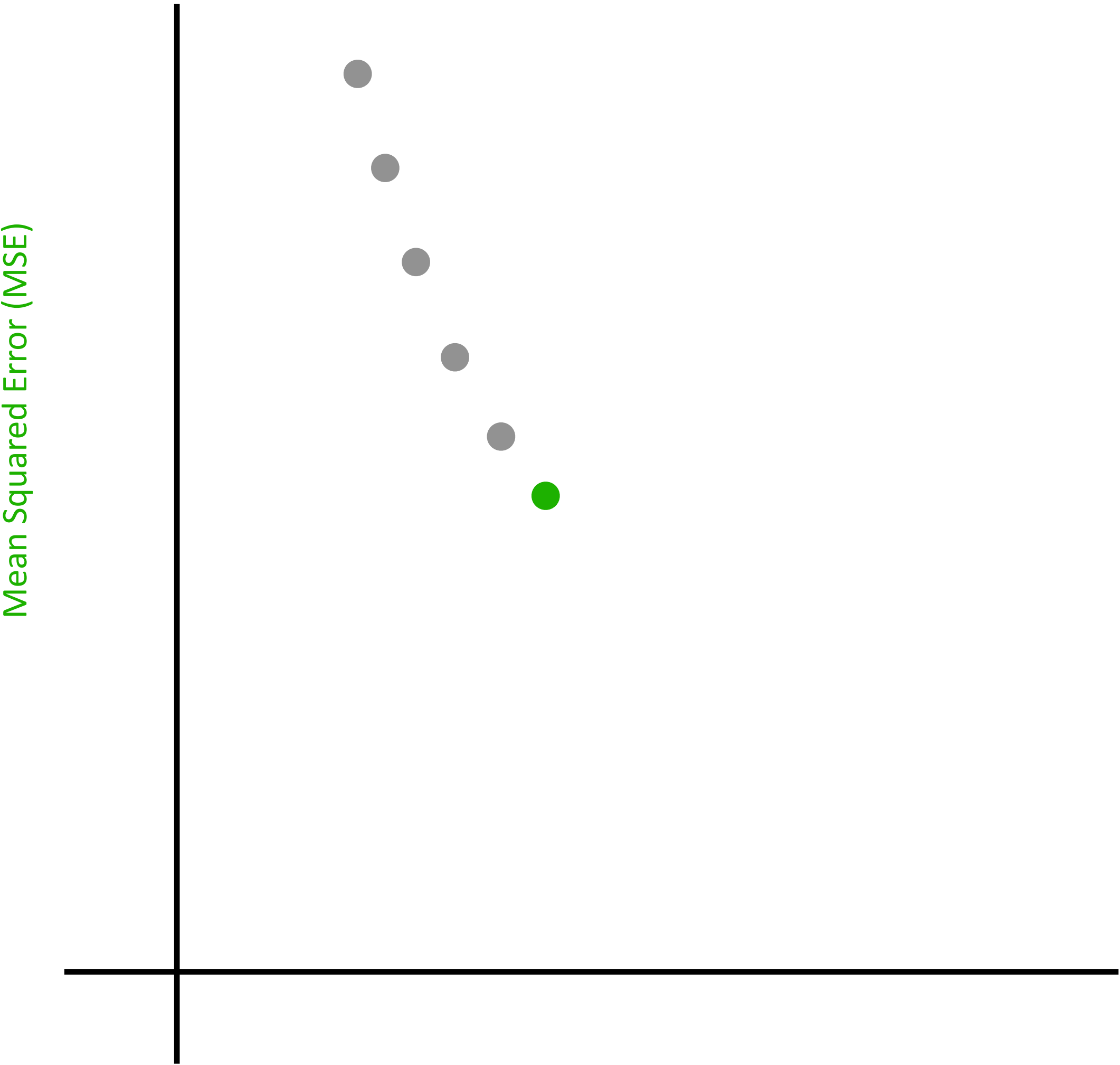
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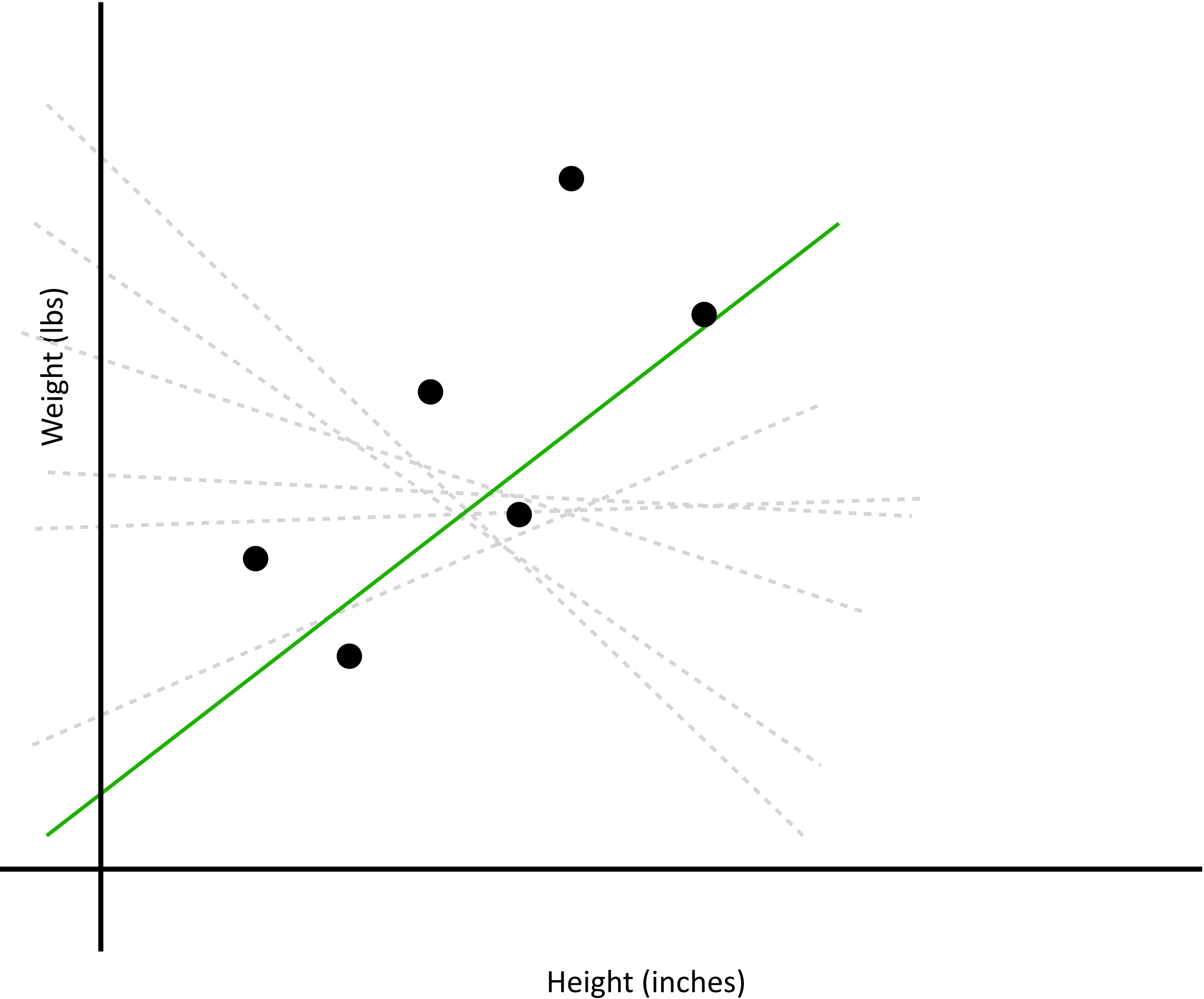
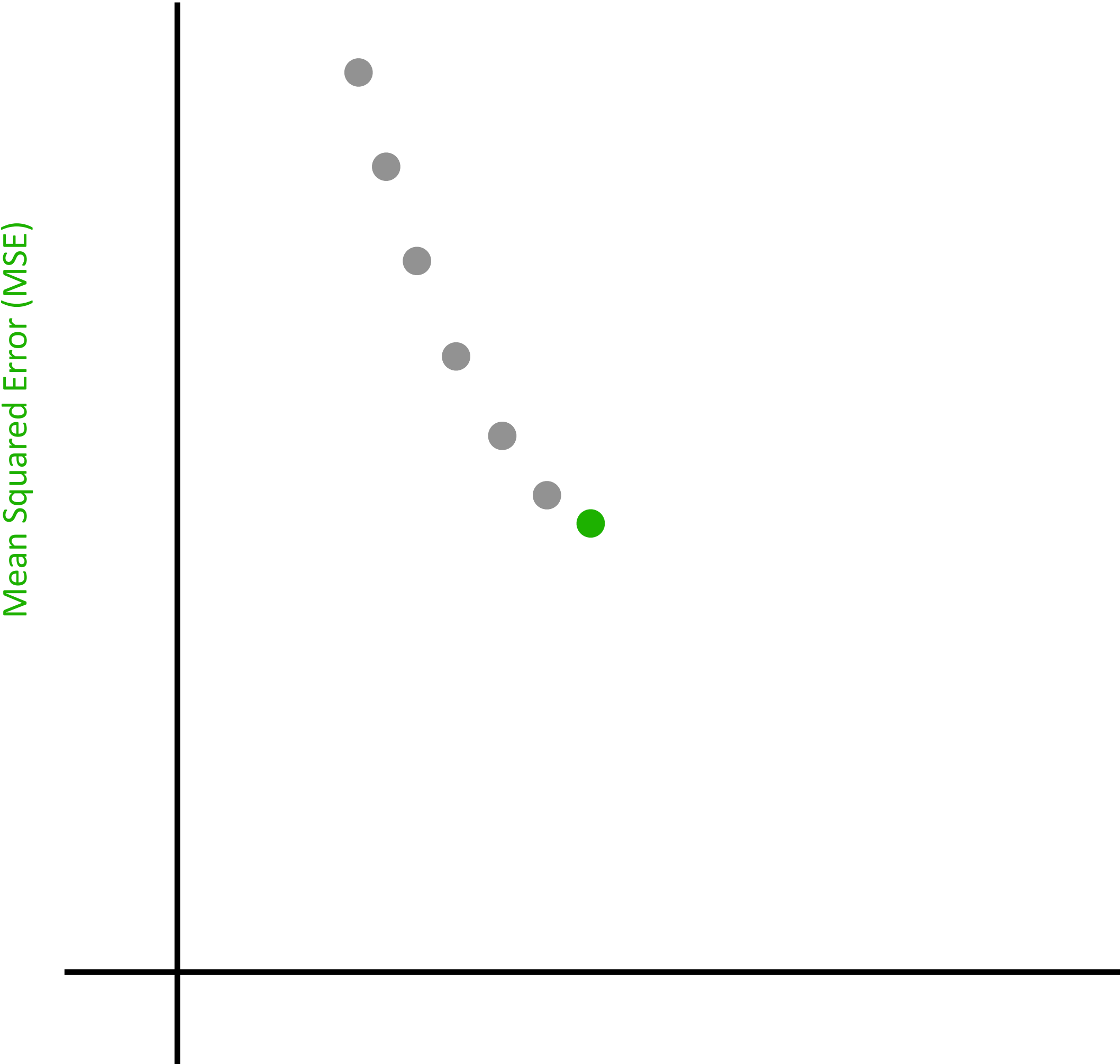
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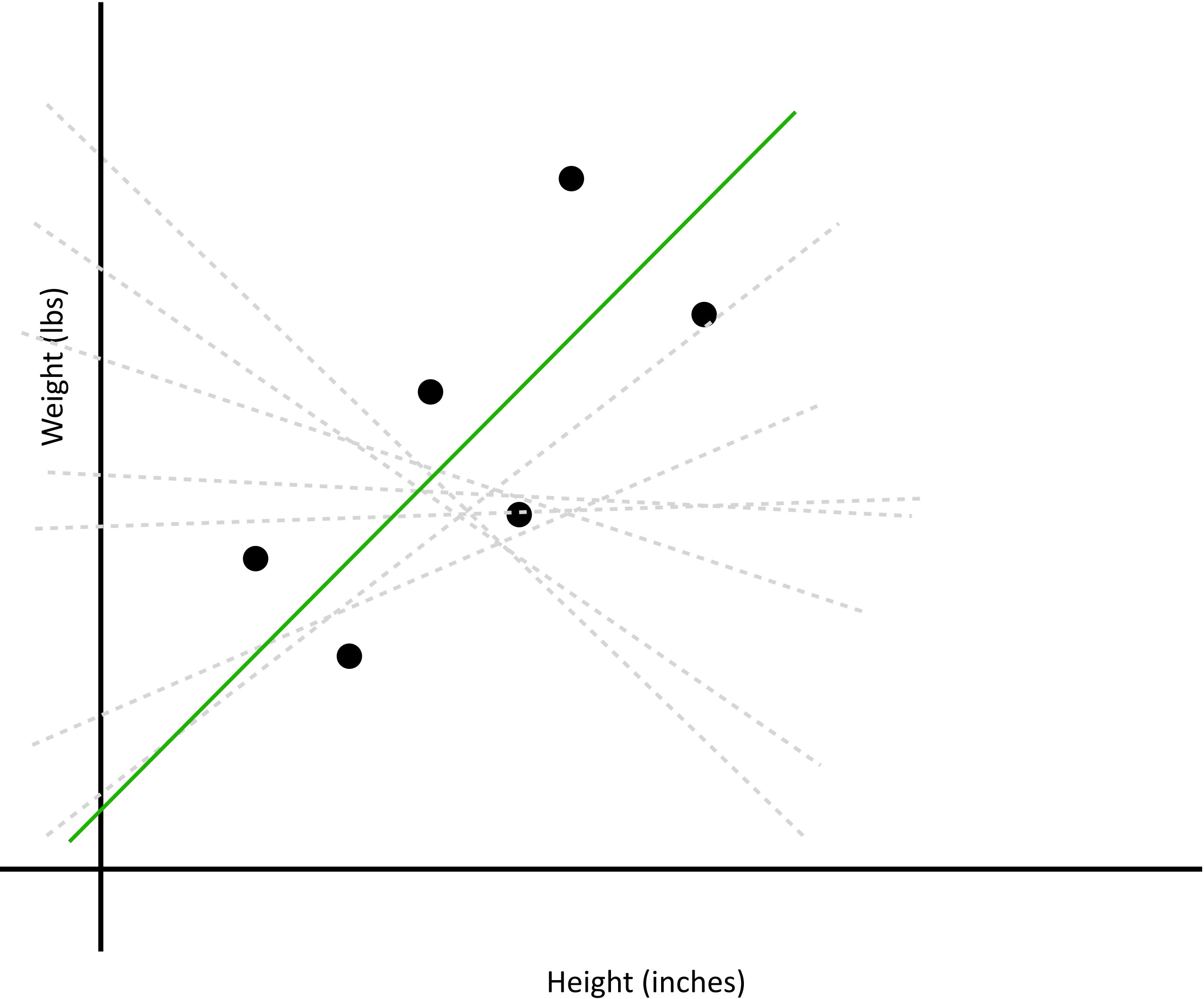
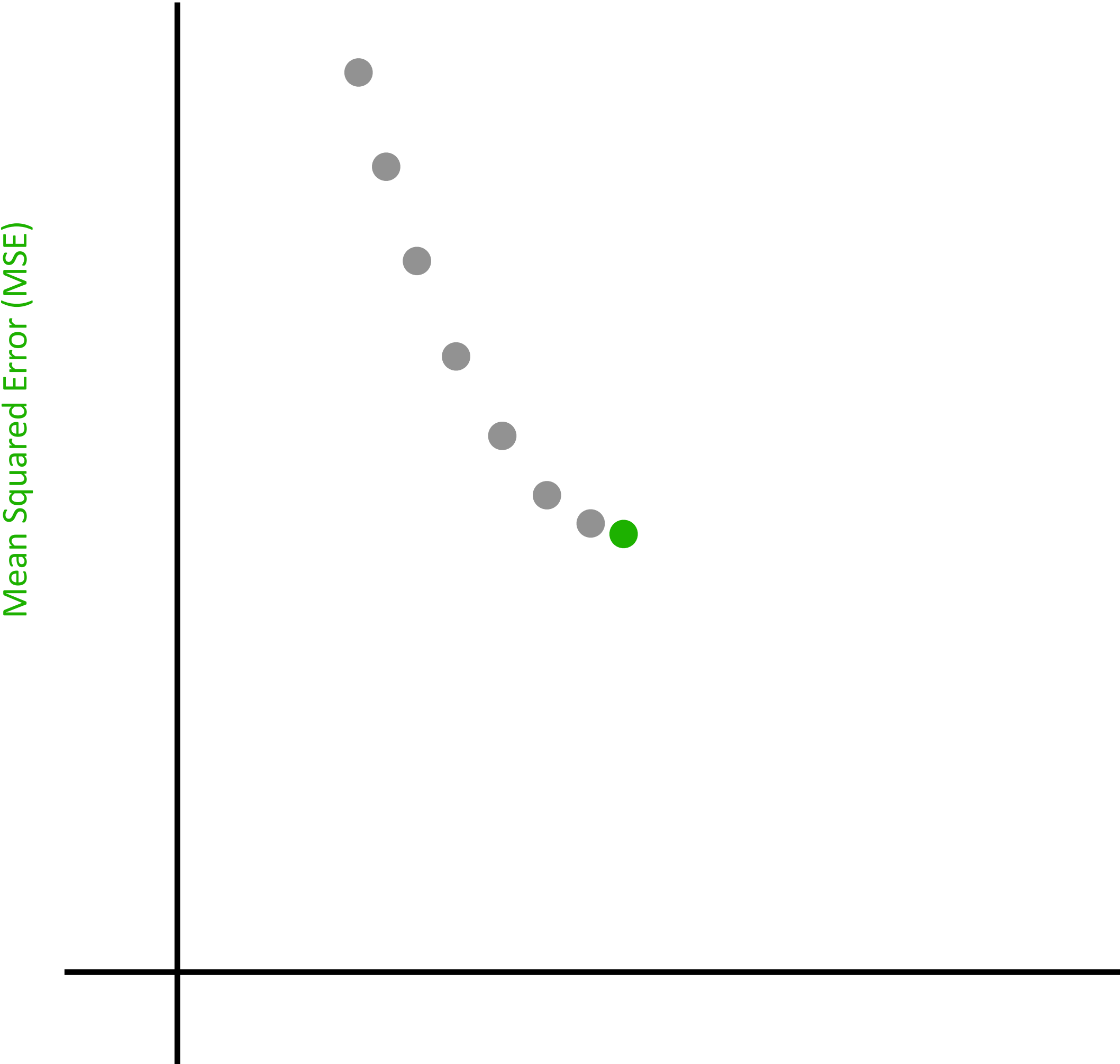
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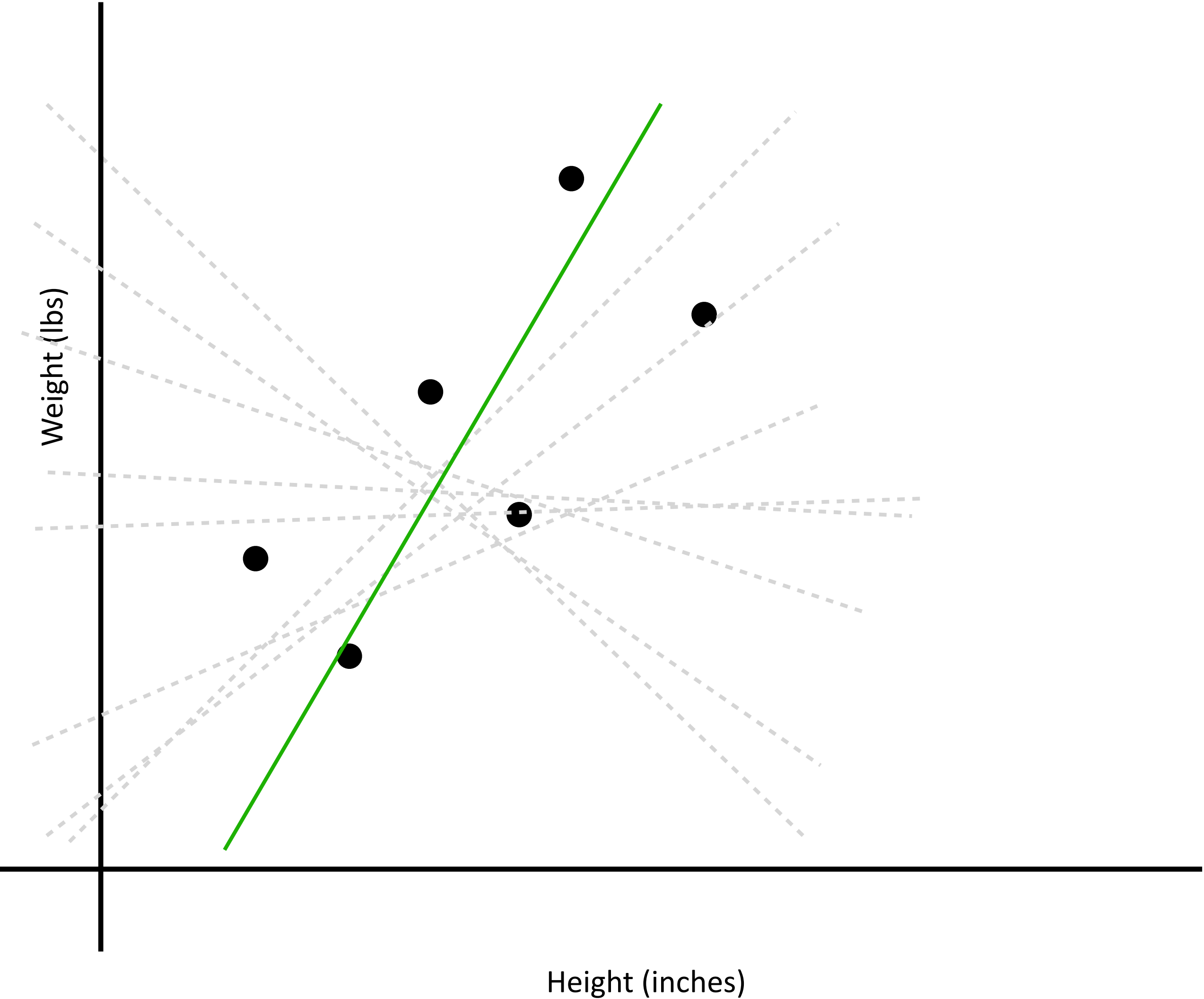
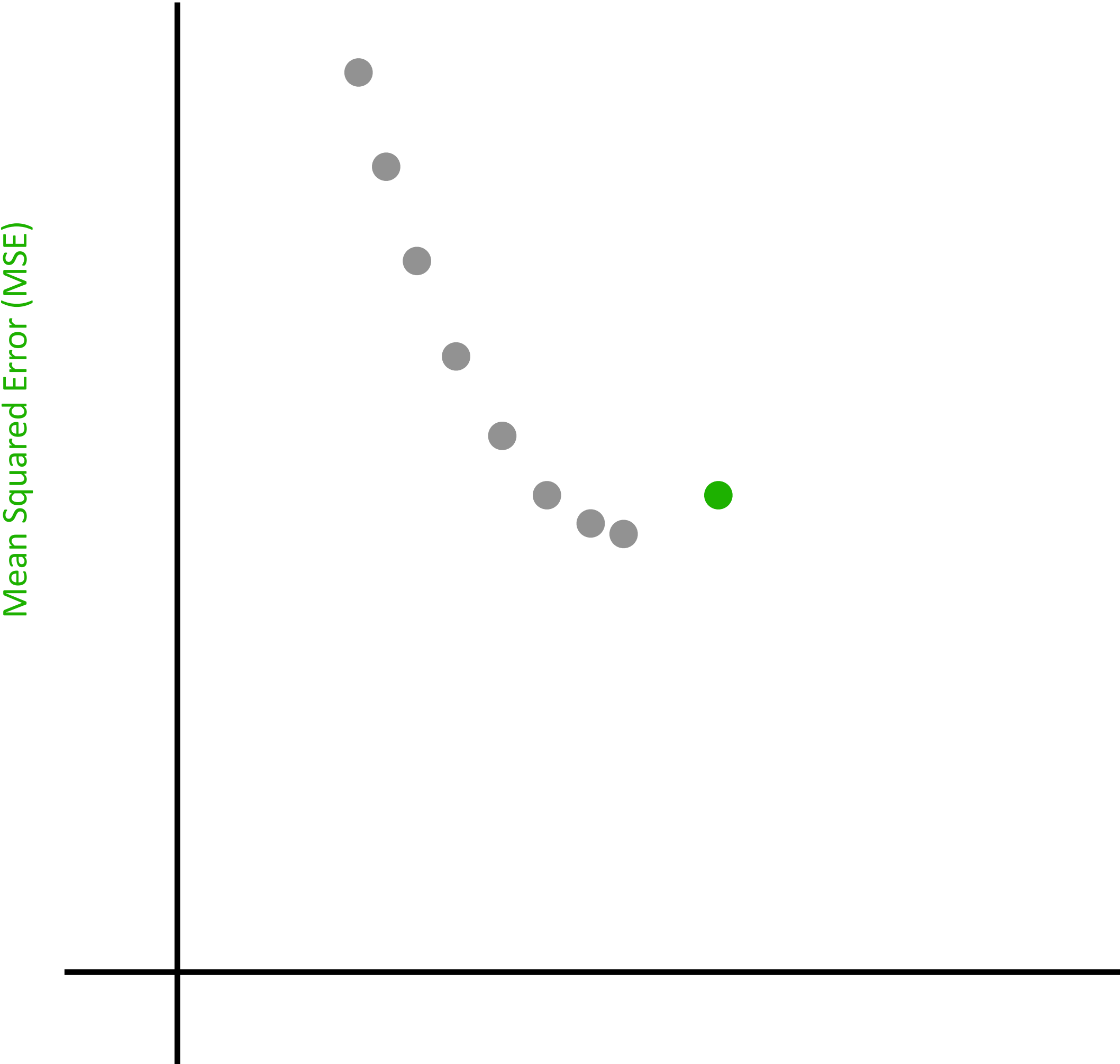
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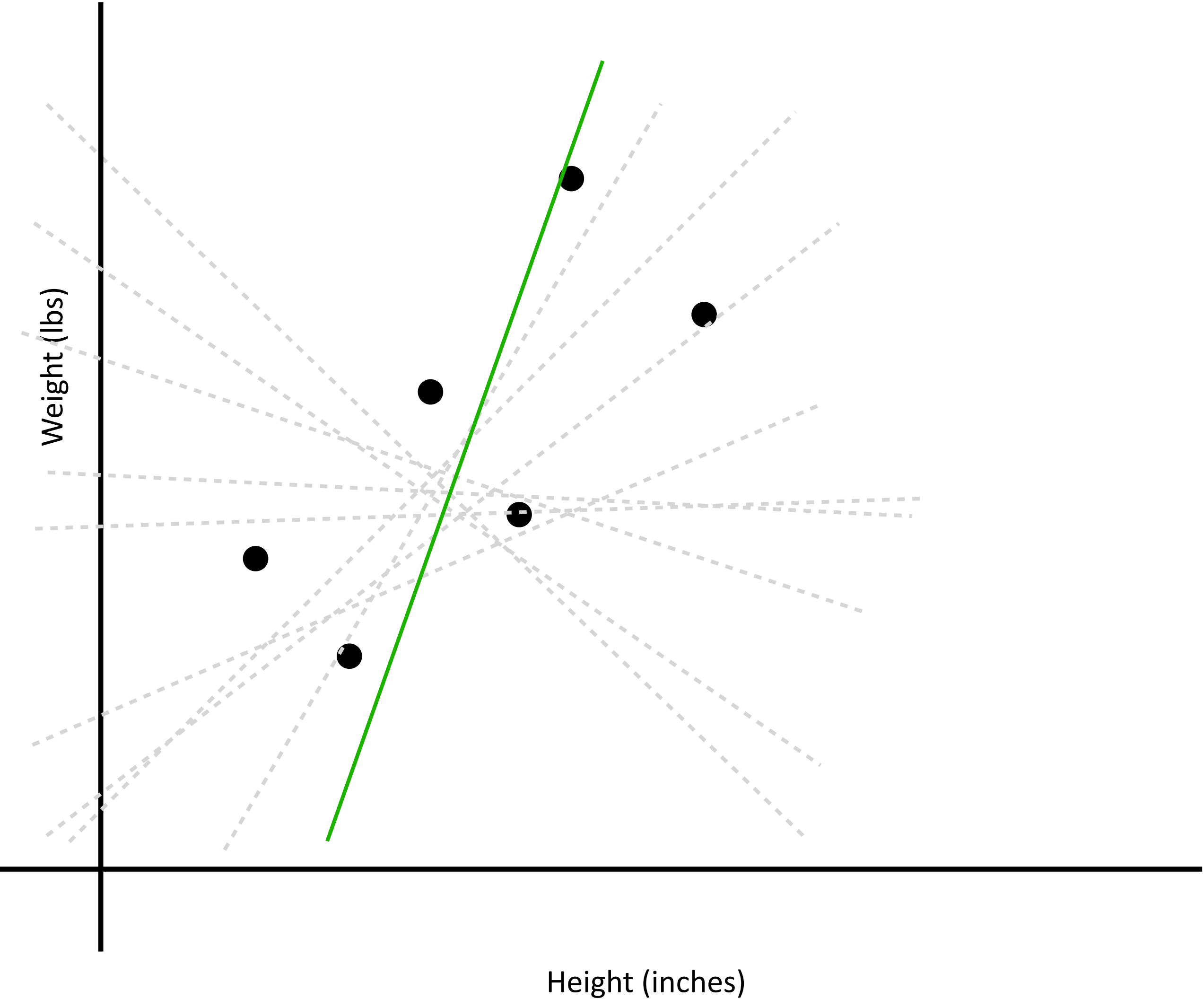
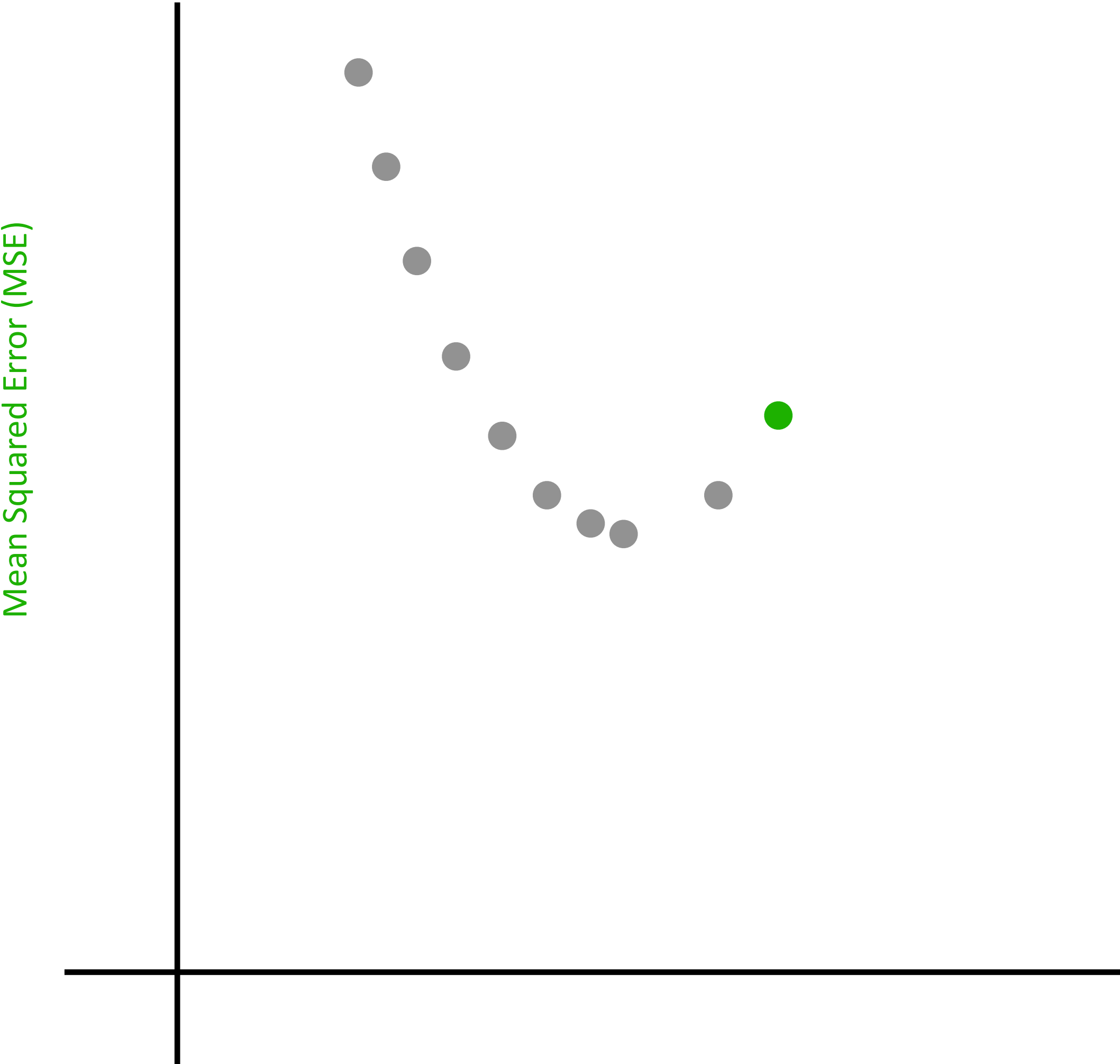
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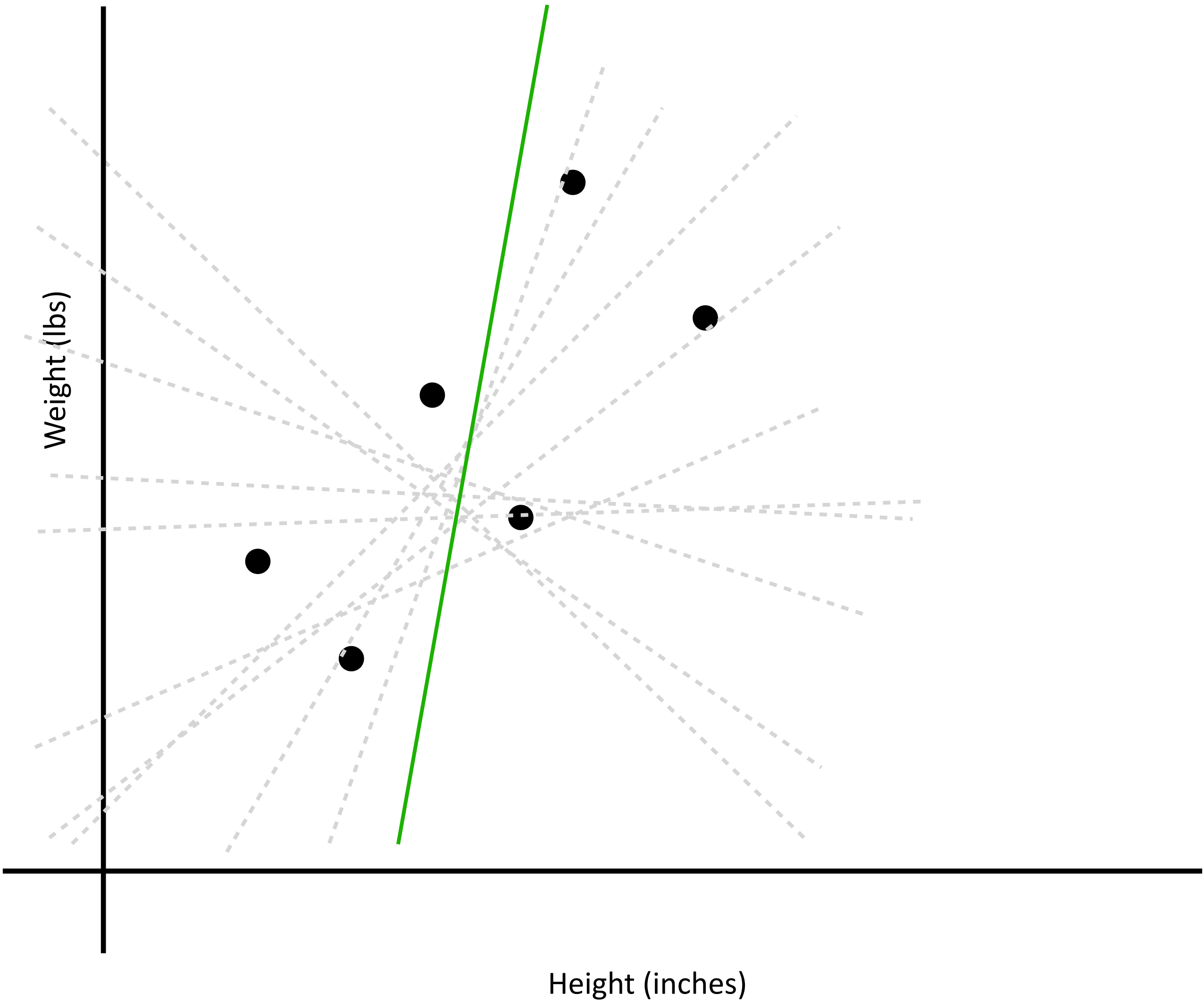
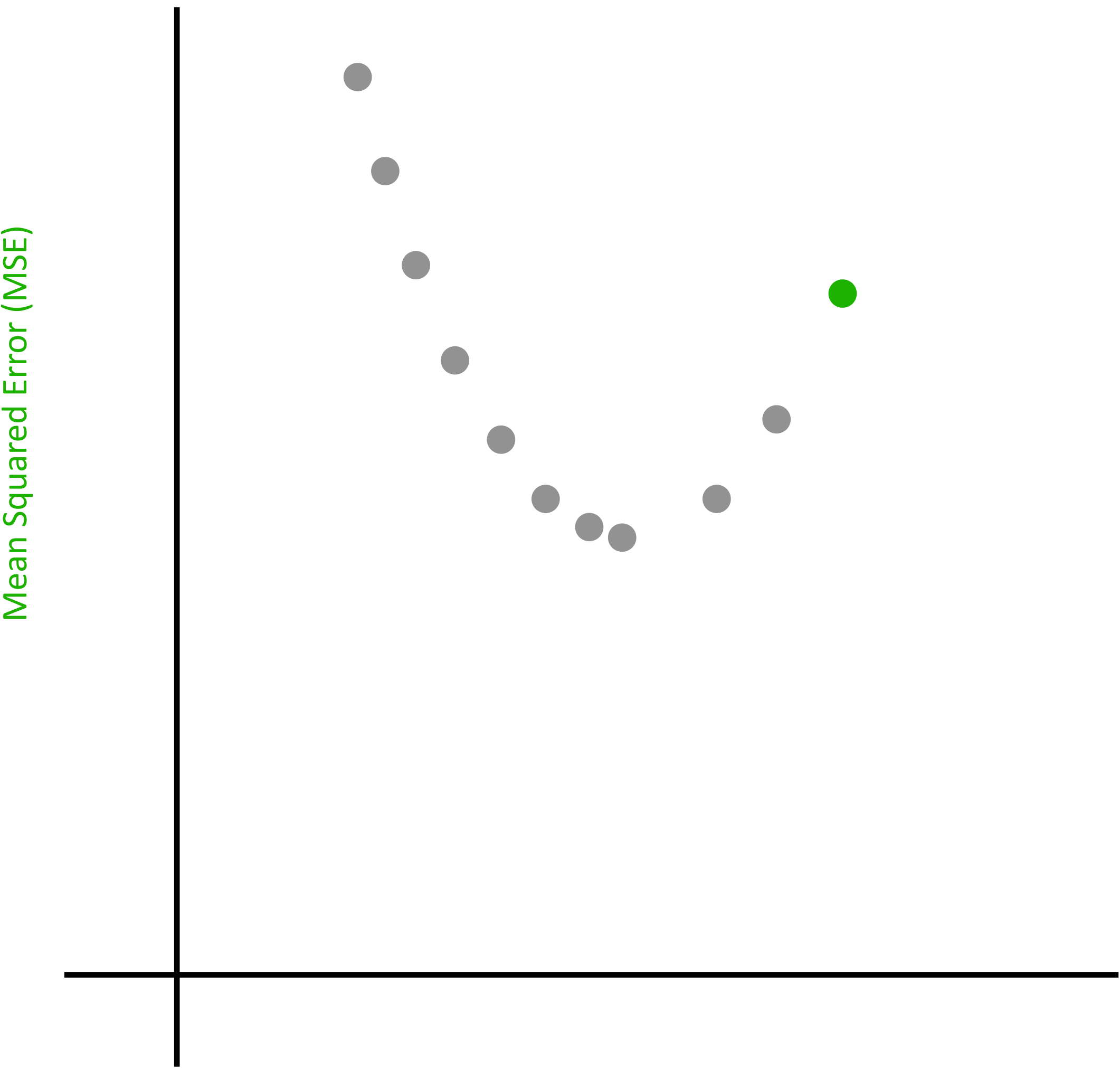
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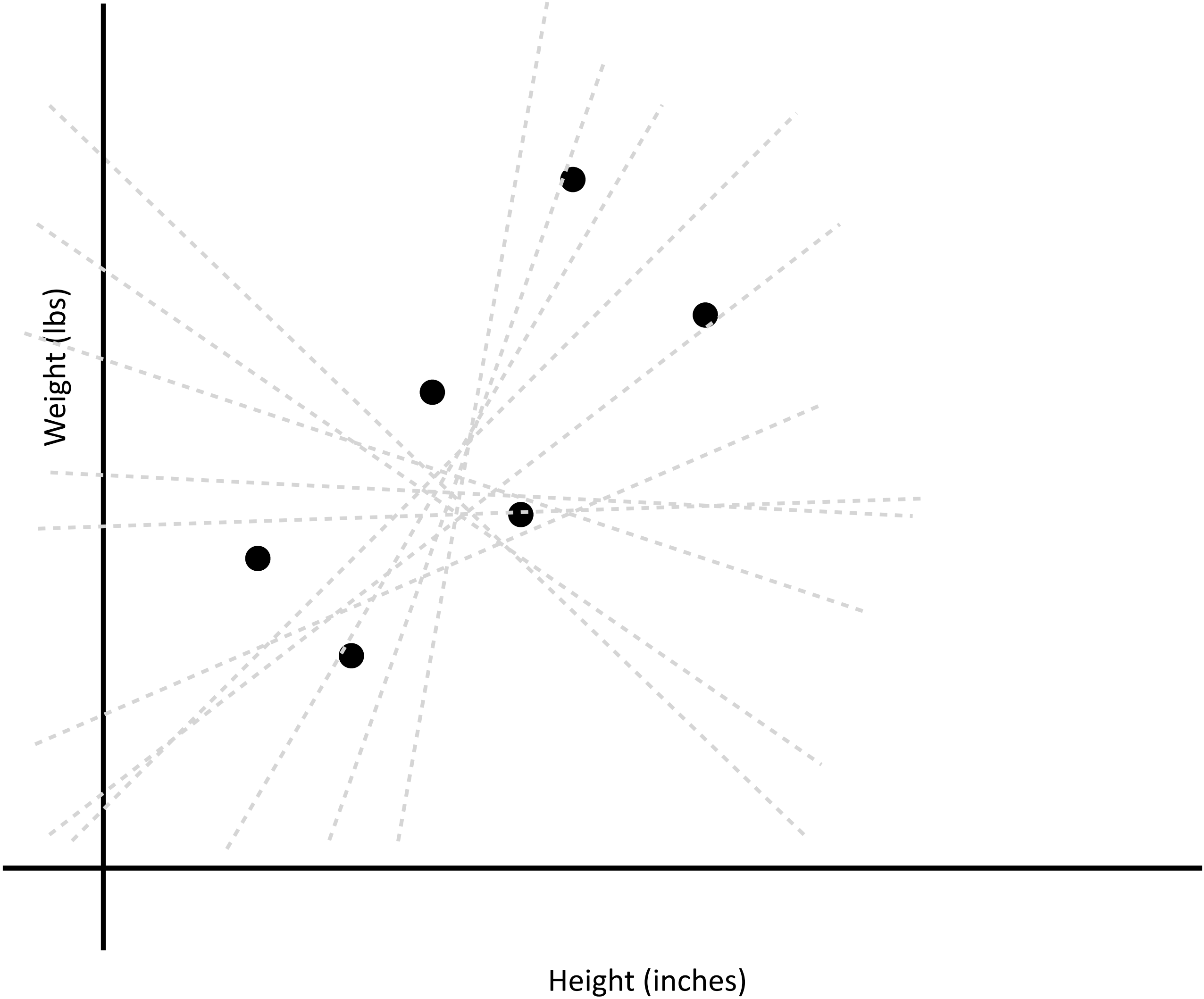
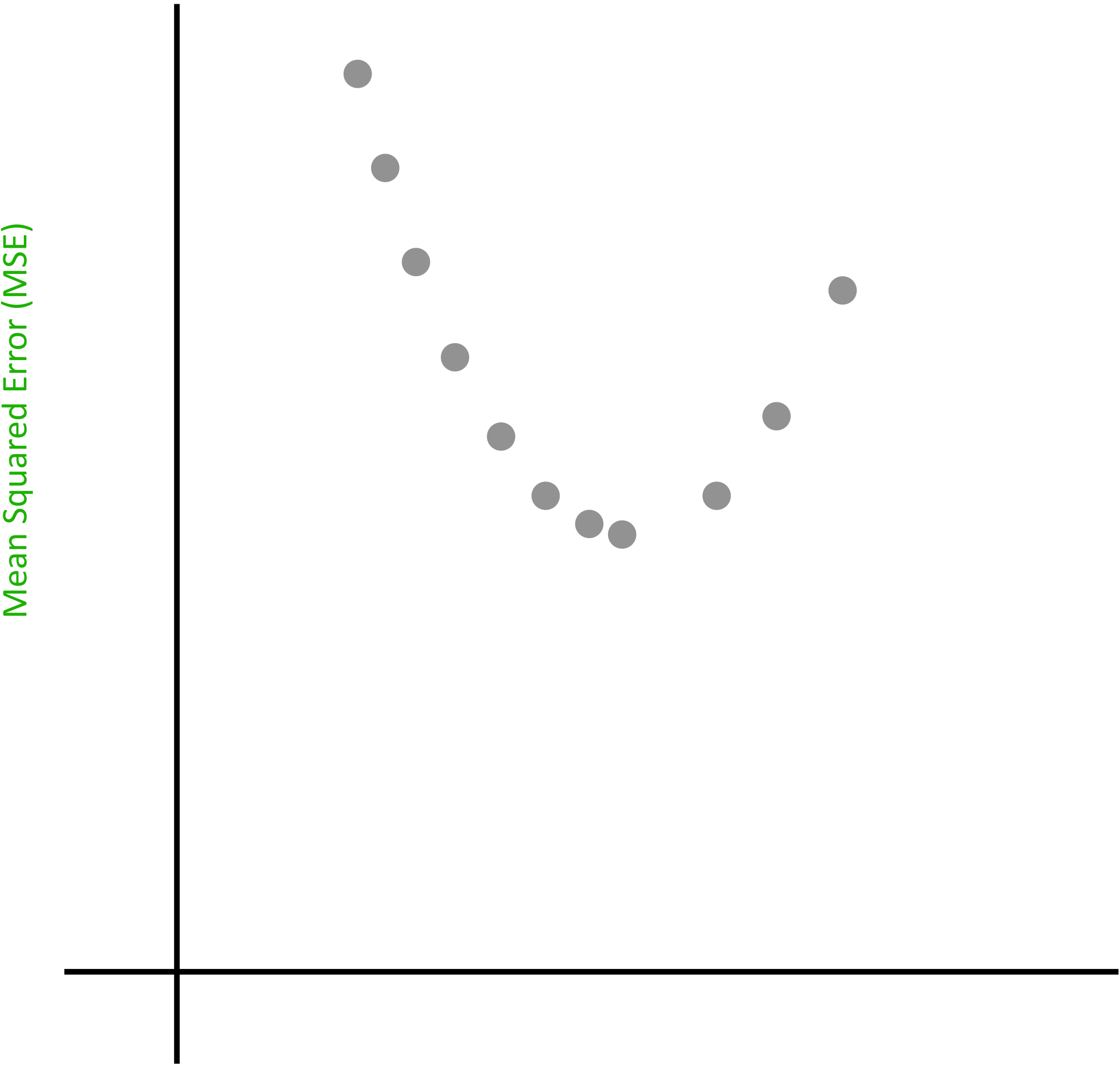
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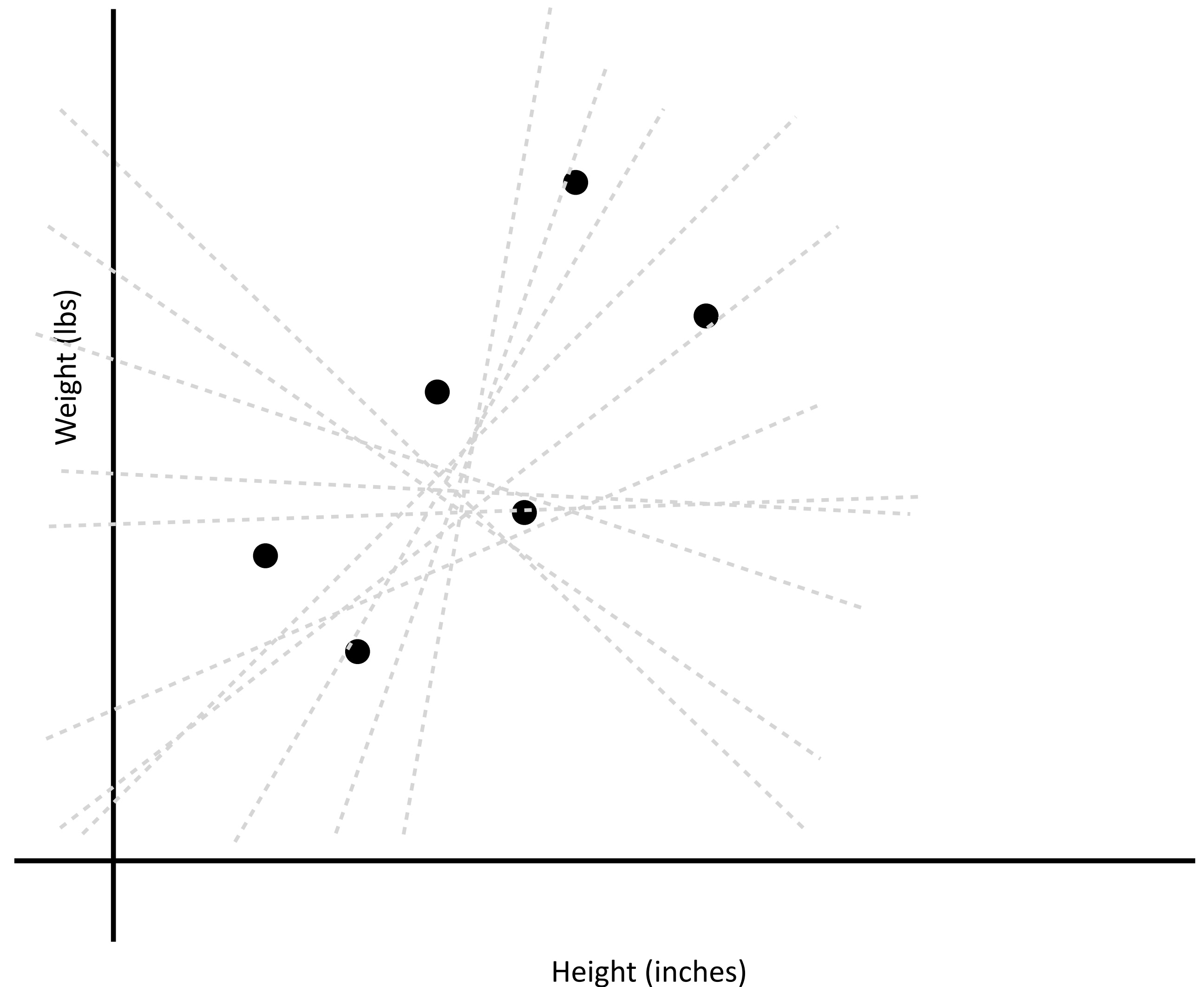
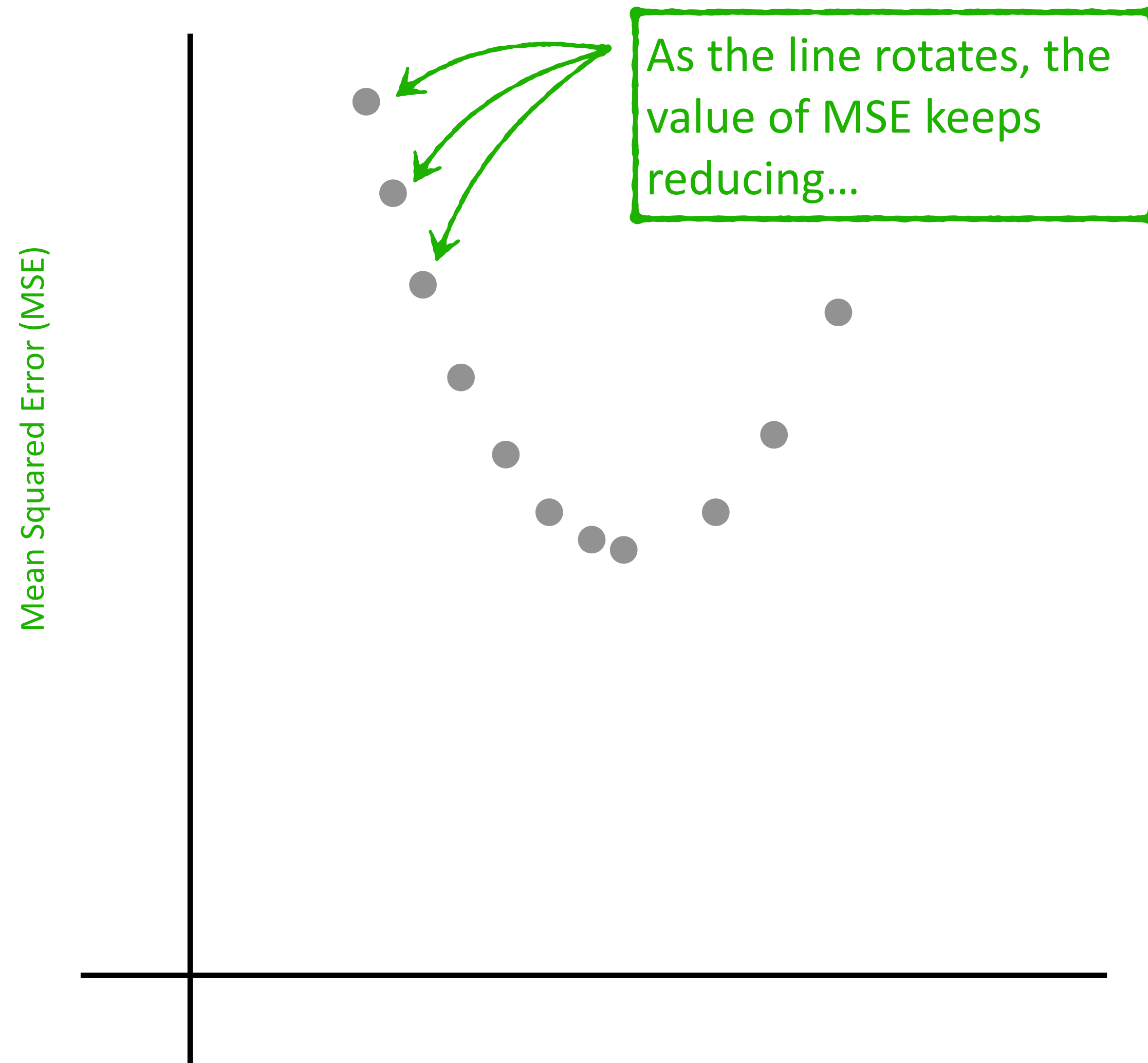
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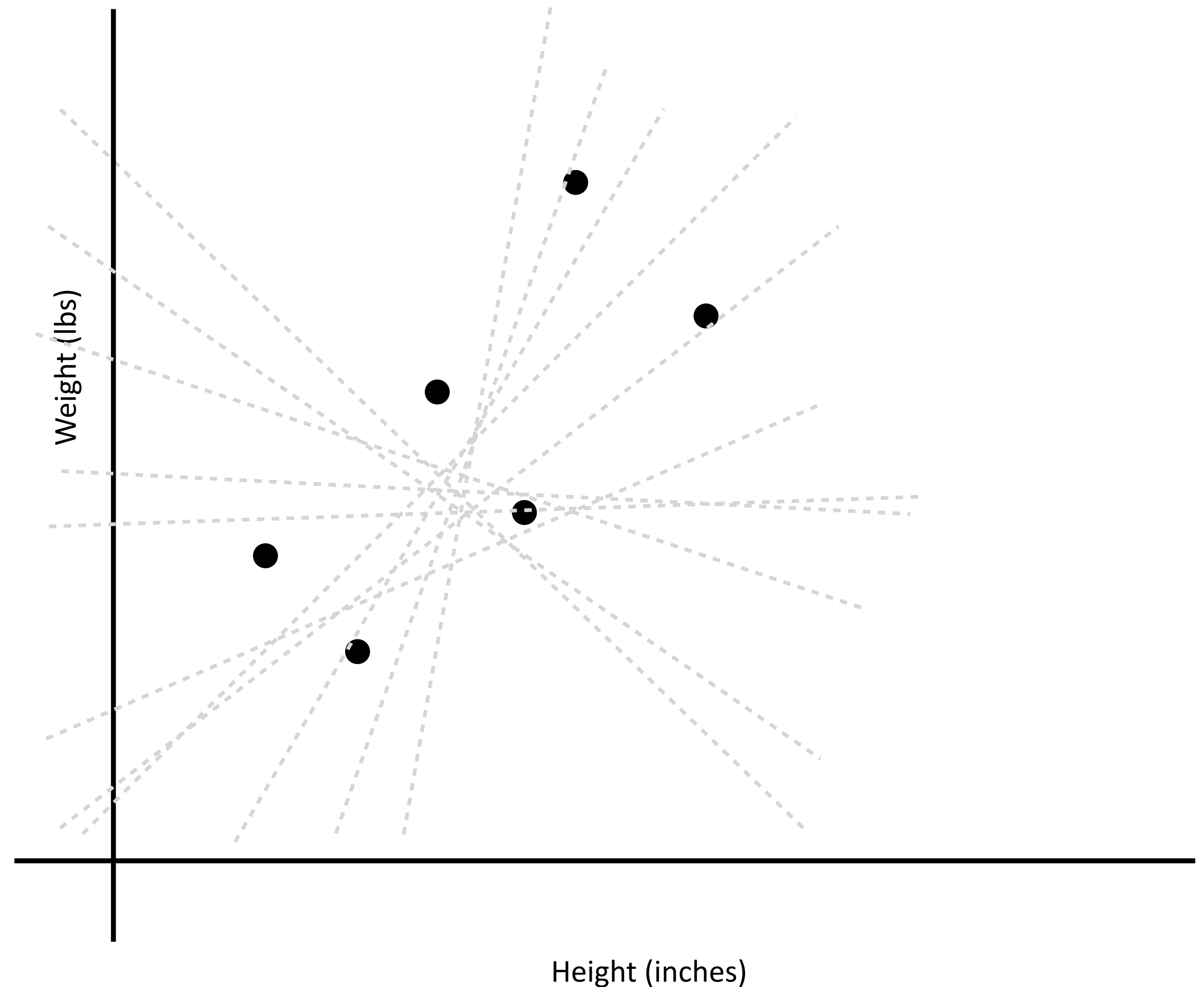
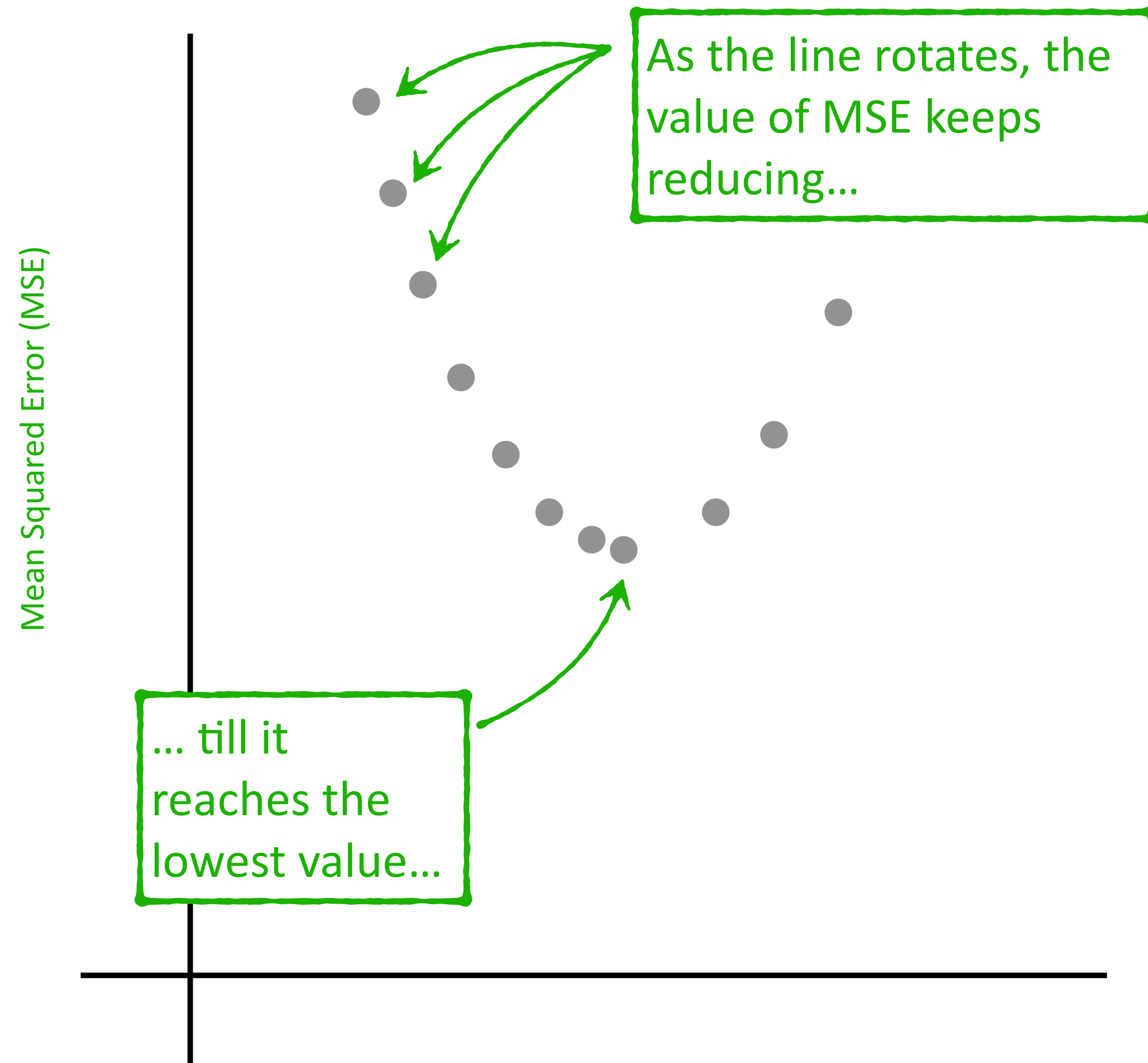
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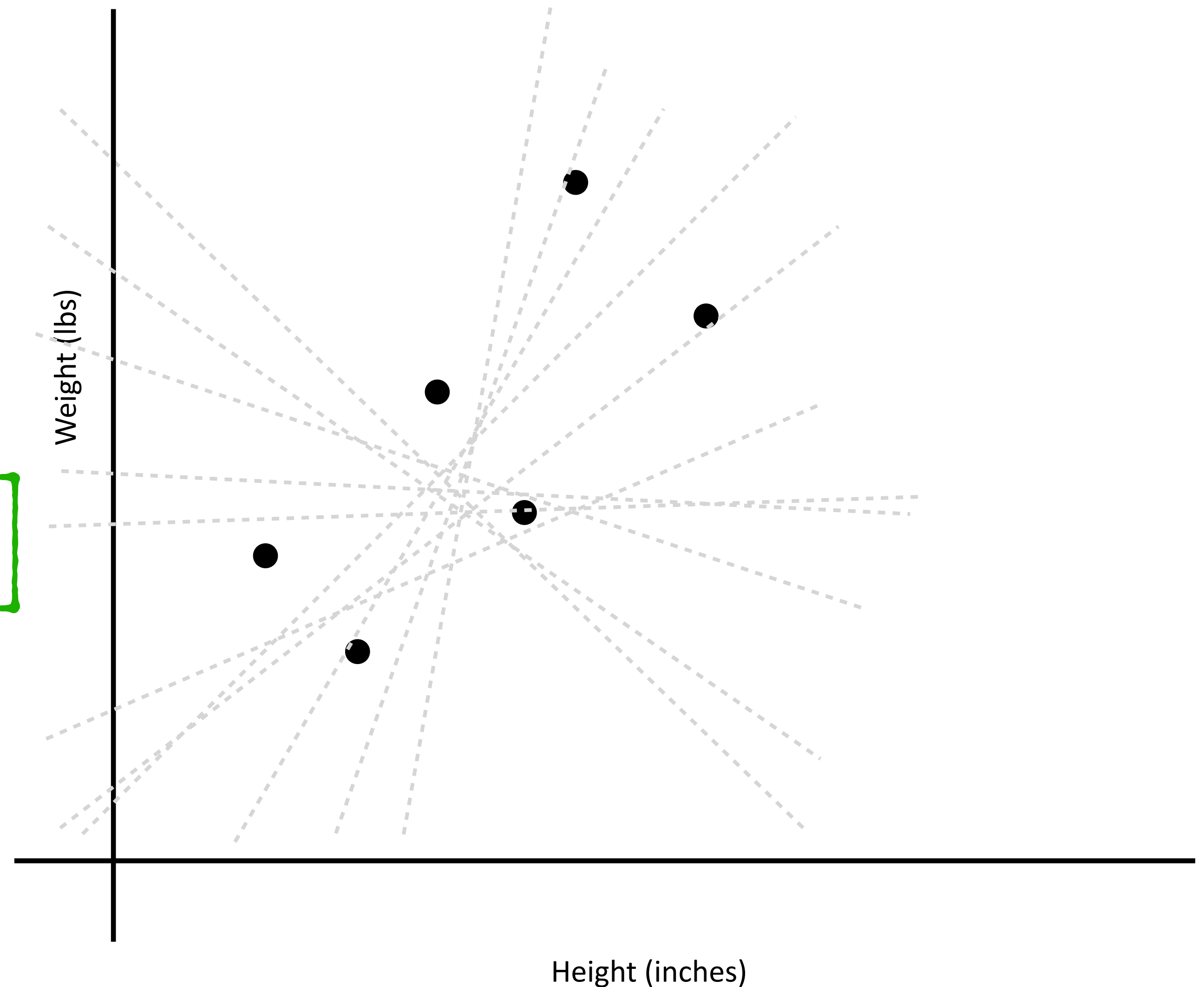
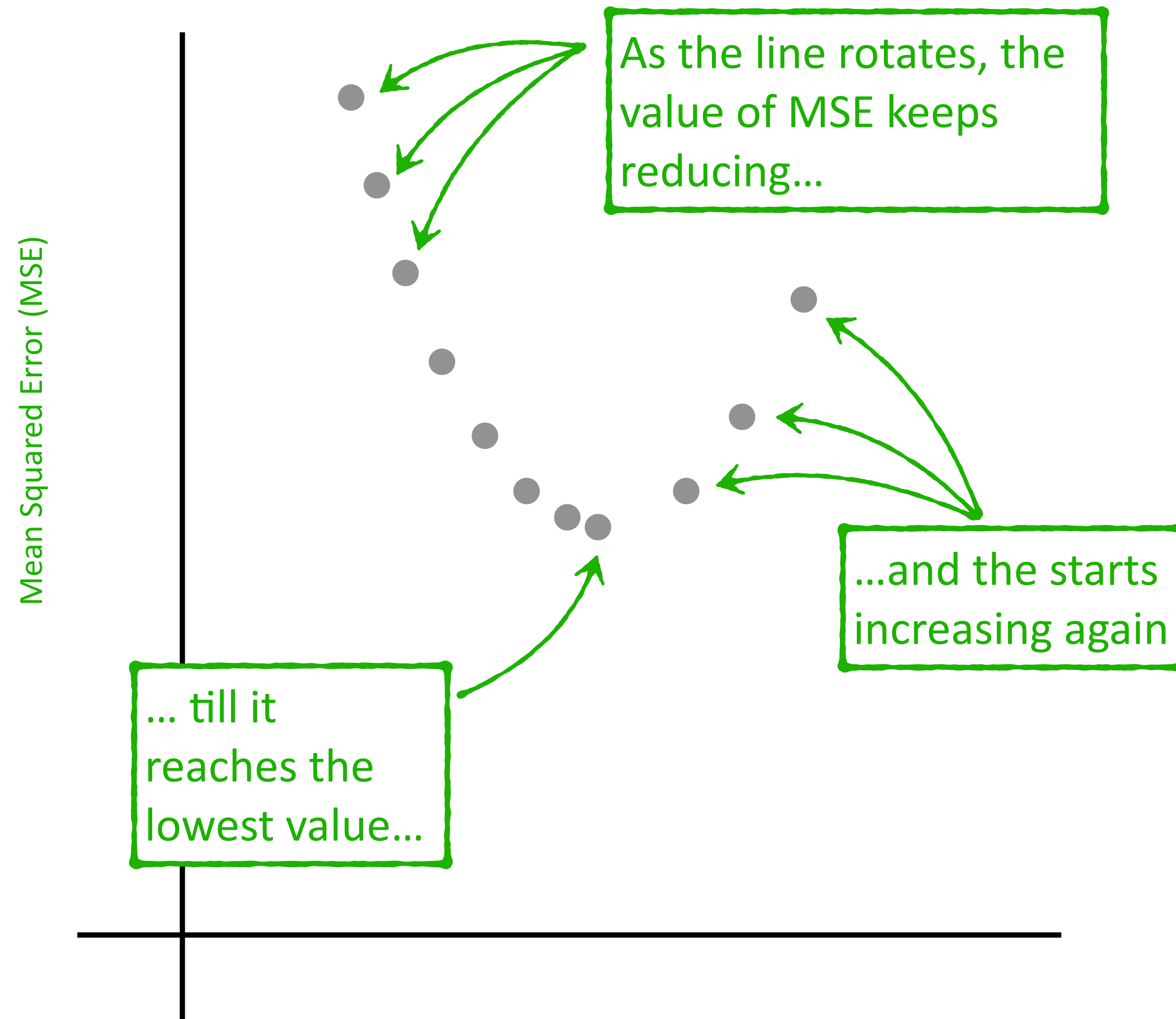
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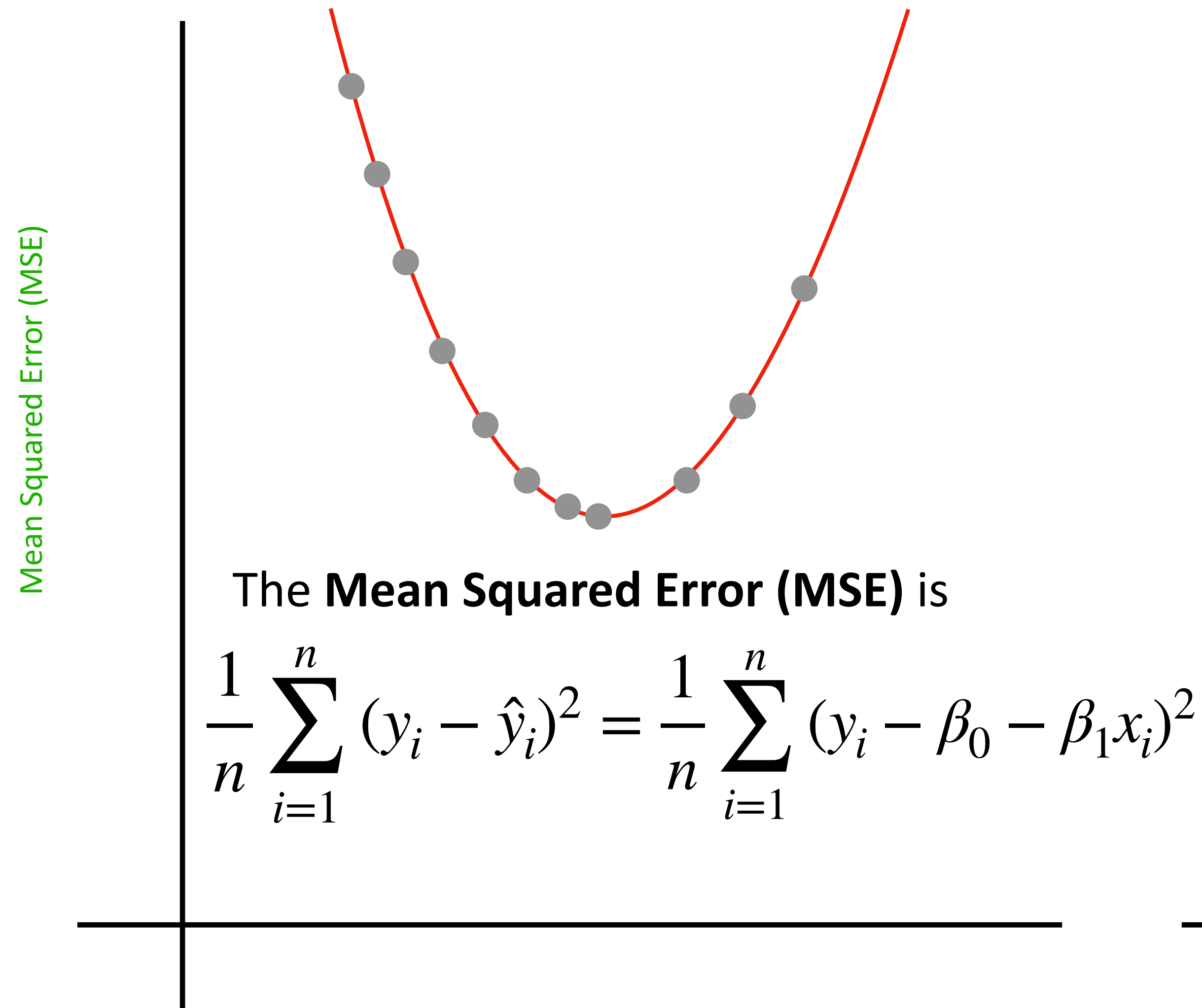


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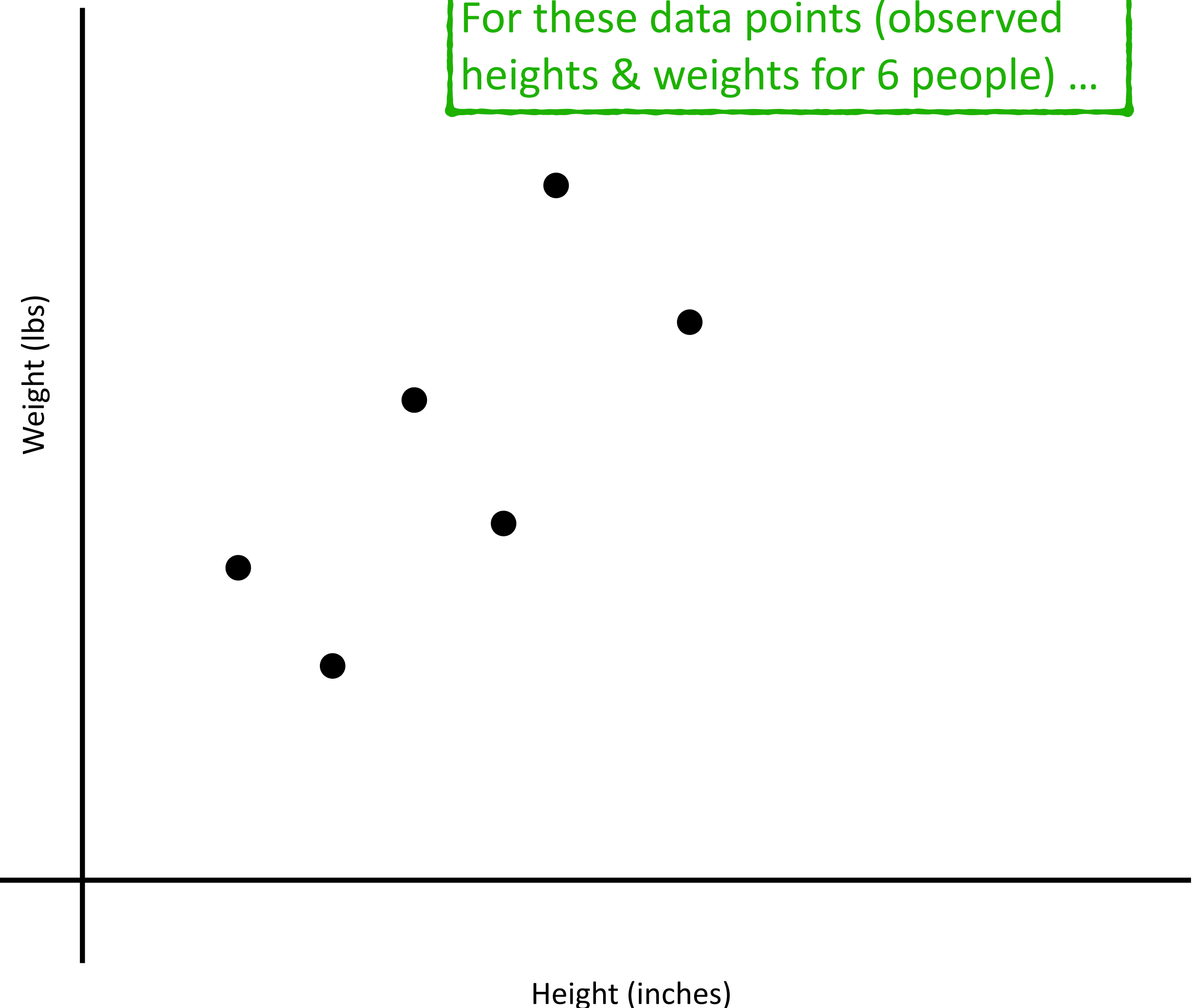


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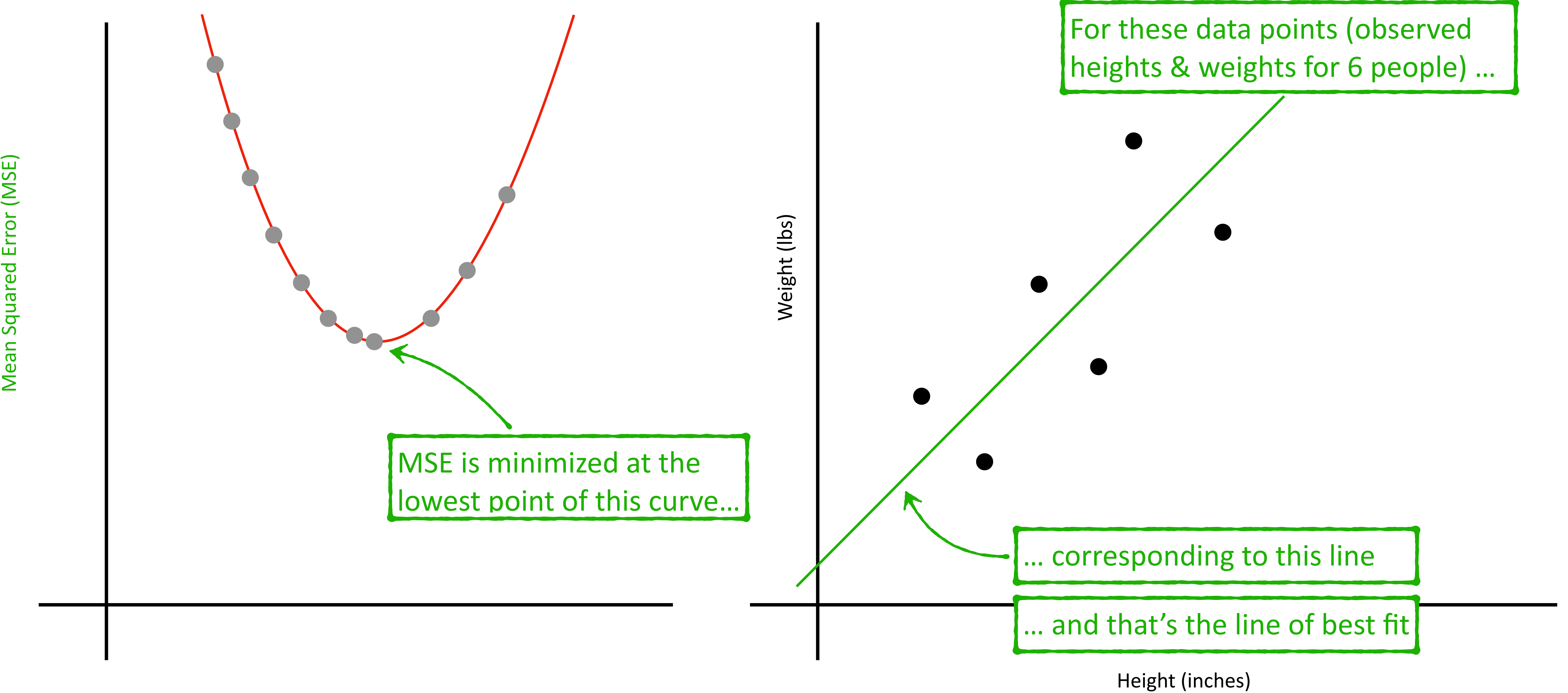
# Simple Linear Regression

For these data points (observed heights & weights for 6 people) ...



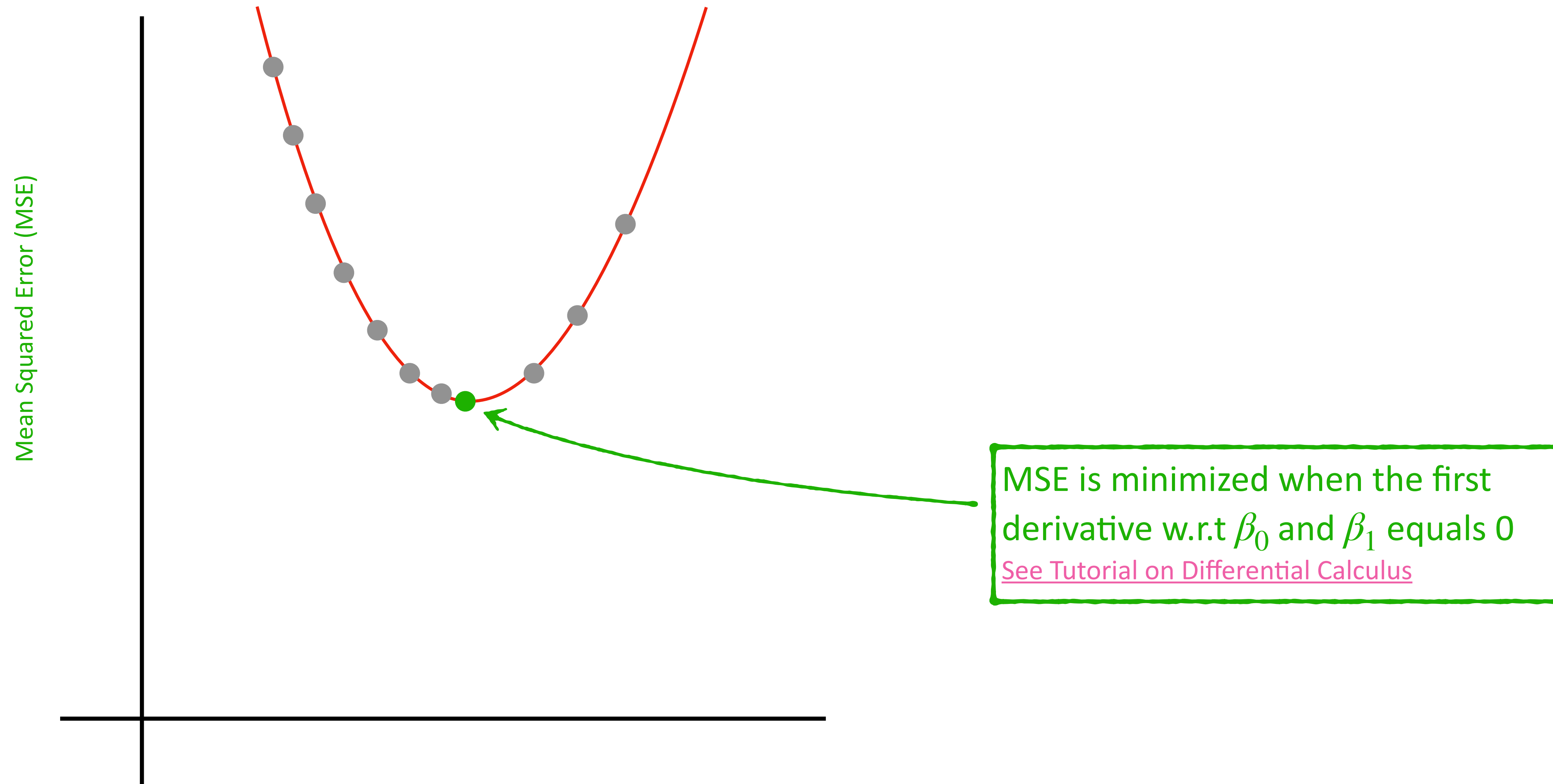
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# Simple Linear Regression



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# Simple Linear Regression

The **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** is

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_i)^2$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \beta_0} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_i)^2 = 0 \cdots eq(1)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \beta_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_i)^2 = 0 \cdots eq(2)$$

MSE is minimized when the first derivative w.r.t  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  equals 0

[See Tutorial on Differential Calculus](#)

Lets calculate the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** for various values of  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$

# Simple Linear Regression

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Solving both equations for  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$   
we get...

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Solving both equations for  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  we get...

## Simple Linear Regression

$$\beta_0 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n y_i - \beta_1 \sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{n}$$

$$\beta_1 = \frac{n \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \sum_{i=1}^n y_i}{n \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right)^2}$$

This is known as the **Closed Form Solution** for Simple Linear Regression

For the details on how the two equations are solved see [Proof of the Closed Form Solution](#) 

# Related Tutorials & Textbooks

## [Simple Linear Regression - Proof of the Closed Form Solution ↗](#)

A detailed proof of the the closed form solution of simple linear regression introduced above. This proof walks through solving two partial differential equations to compute the values of the two parameters.

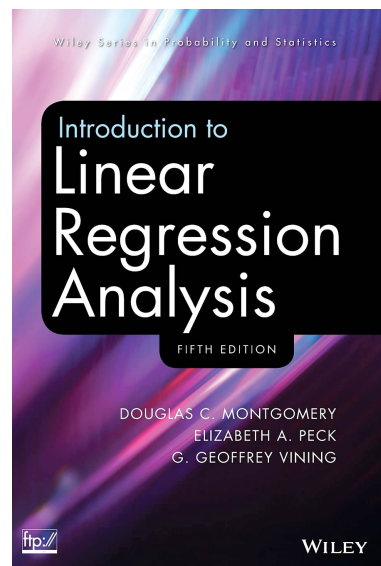
## [Multiple Regression ↗](#)

Multiple regression extends the two dimensional linear model introduced in Simple Linear Regression to  $k + 1$  dimensions with one dependent variable,  $k$  independent variables and  $k+1$  parameters.

## [Gradient Descent for Simple Linear Regression ↗](#)

An introduction to the Gradient Descent algorithm and a deep dive on how it can be used to optimize the two parameters  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  for Simple Linear Regression.

## Recommended Textbooks



### **Introduction to Linear Regression Analysis**

by Douglas C. Montgomery, Elizabeth A. Peck, G. Geoffrey Vining

**For a complete list of tutorials see:**

<https://arrsingh.com/ai-tutorials>